

Protesters demand Sharon's ouster

TEL AVIV (R) — Several thousand Israeli "Peace Now" demonstrators marched through the streets of Tel Aviv Saturday shouting demands for the total removal of former Defence Minister Ariel Sharon from the government. Scores of police accompanied the demonstrators but most of the streets were nearly empty because of the high winds and rain. No disturbances were reported by police. Mr. Sharon was named minister of defence portfolio after he was forced to resign the defence post in accordance with the findings of a judicial commission inquiring into the Beirut massacre of Palestinians last September. Israeli Affairs minister to the U.S. Moshe Arens arrived Friday to take up the post of defence minister.

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Egyptian lawyers burn Israeli flags

CAIRO (R) — Several hundred lawyers burned three Israeli flags at a rally to mark the third anniversary of Egypt establishing diplomatic relations with "the Israeli enemy" Saturday. As the flags burned, the lawyers hoisted Palestinian banners. Security police ringed the Cairo Bar Association building where the rally was held and fire engines stood by. The lawyers shouted slogans supporting "the Palestine heroic struggle" and denouncing the Camp David agreement which led to the Egyptian-Israeli treaty of 1979.

Gadhafi thanks Malta for solving hijack

VALLETTA (R) — Libyan leader Col. Muammar Gadhafi has thanked Maltese Prime Minister Dom Mintoff for securing the release of 158 people from a hijacked Libyan airliner. Malta Radio said Saturday. Two Libyan army officers hijacked the plane last Sunday while on a domestic Libyan flight and landed it in Malta. They eventually surrendered on Wednesday after Mr. Mintoff promised they would not be sent back to Libya. They are being held by the Maltese army until another country says it is willing to accept them.

Snow hits Syria for ninth day

DAMASCUS (R) — Scores of mountain villages were reported cut off from the rest of the country Saturday as heavy snow fell in Syria for the ninth day running. The official Syrian News Agency SANA said the snowstorm also blocked roads between Damascus and other cities. Some mountain villages were under five metres of snow, SANA said. At least 70 people died in a snowstorm which lasted neighbouring Lebanon last weekend.

Egypt to reinforce air force

CAIRO (R) — Egypt plans to buy more French Mirage-2000 and U.S.-made F-16 fighters to form the backbone of a modernised air force. Egyptian Chief of Staff Abd-Rabu-nabi Hafez was quoted Saturday as saying. Gen. Hafez, who is visiting France, told the Paris correspondent of the official Middle East News Agency (MENA): "Egypt will sign contracts for more Mirage-2000s and F-16s. The two aircraft will be the major planes serving in the Egyptian air force." Egypt last year signed a \$1 billion deal with France for 20 Mirage-2000s. The chief of staff did not say how many more of the planes Cairo hoped to buy. Egypt already has 40 F-16s and about 80 are on order.

U.S. tests Pershing-2

WASHINGTON (R) — The U.S. Army Saturday conducted its fifth test of the Pershing-2 missile, schedule for deployment in December in West Germany, and said the launch and flight, "appeared normal." In the test, to assess the missile's accuracy, the Pershing flew its full course of 290 kilometres at the White Sands missile range, New Mexico, without incident, the officials said. The Pershing-2 had trouble in its early tests: the first was a failure and the second only a partial success—but the two tests before Saturday's were successes.

INSIDE

Hong Kong police alert on immigrants, page 2
Arab jurists meeting opens in Amman, page 3
Religious pressure builds up in NATO countries against arms race, page 4
The real cost of war: A doctor's experience in Beirut, page 5
Manchester United accepts the inevitable, page 6
Major U.S. banks cut interest rates, page 7
Saunders: "U.S., Israel need dialogue in depth", page 8

U.S., Lebanon discuss draft agreement for Israeli pullout

BEIRUT (R) — American and Lebanese diplomats met for a second day Saturday to discuss draft proposals in the latest U.S. effort to speed up negotiations on the withdrawal of all Israeli, Syrian and Palestinian troops from Lebanon.

Official sources said a drafting committee of senior officials was working on the wording of parts of a proposed agreement with Israel on the withdrawal of its invasion force, which entered Lebanon last June.

Syria and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) have indicated that they would pull their remaining men out of Lebanon once the Israelis left.

The sources said the committee was working out texts for points on which it believed agreement with Israel was closest.

At the same time, they added, U.S. special envoy Philip Habib met Lebanese President Amin Gemayel to discuss some points on which Lebanon and Israel were most deeply divided.

The sources said Mr. Habib was planning to go to Israel Saturday or Sunday with a comprehensive list of the progress to date in the talks which Lebanon, Israel and the U.S. have been holding twice a week since late December.

The talks have been making slow progress and Saturday's meetings, which followed a long session of U.S.-Lebanese talks Friday, marked a sharp quickening of pace by the U.S. team.

The official sources said the two days of intensive work were aimed at tying up loose ends from the 18 sessions of Lebanese-Israeli-U.S. negotiations, rather than a bid to come up with striking new ideas to break the deadlock on the most contentious issues.

They said the special envoy's message for the Israelis on progress would consist of three sections:

"Joint U.S.-Lebanese texts being worked out for those topics on which final agreement with Israel looked possible soon."

"Texts being proposed by the U.S. as a compromise on points on which Israel and Lebanon differed to some extent."

Elizabeth begins U.S. tour

SAN DIEGO, California (R) — Escorted by an armada of 250 pleasure boats sounding whistles and sirens, Queen Elizabeth of Britain sailed into San Diego Saturday for her first visit to the western United States.

A red carpet—rented for the day by the U.S. Navy from a local shop—was run down the gangway of the royal yacht Britannia for the queen and her husband, Prince Philip, to come ashore.

The royal couple were greeted by blustery winds, grey skies and choppy seas, instead of the usual California sunshine.

(Continued on page 3)

— Details of those subjects on which Israel and Lebanon were completely deadlocked.

The sources declined to give details on each category, but Lebanese government sources said Lebanon and Israel were closest to agreement on ending the state of war which has existed technically between them since the creation of Israel in 1948.

They added that the two sides had been most deeply divided over "security" arrangements which Israel wants to South Lebanon and the question of opening the Israeli-Lebanese border to trade.

Israel has been insisting on keeping a small number of troops in observation posts in South Lebanon, but the Lebanese have objected, apparently fearing that if some Israelis were to stay, the Syrians would reject complete withdrawal of their forces.

TASS assails U.S. role

MOSCOW (R) — The Soviet news agency TASS charged Saturday the United States was trying to take over the occupation of southern Lebanon from Israel in order to use Lebanon as a base for its rapid deployment military task force.

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Balsemao to step down as party leader

MONTCHORO, Portugal (R) — Outgoing Prime Minister Francisco Pinto Balsemao said Saturday he would stand down as leader of Portugal's Social Democratic Party (PSD) after its congress voted overwhelmingly to abolish his post as president.

Mr. Balsemao, 46, a former journalist and co-founder of the party, said he would not accept any further office after the congress, called to decide strategy in April's general elections and to elect officials, voted to replace the post with a three-man leadership.

"I will return to the party's grass roots, which I have often said is a privileged place to be," Mr. Balsemao said.

The Socialists, led by former Prime Minister Mario Soares, gained support at the expense of the PSD in December's local elections, challenging the PSD's position as Portugal's largest party.

(Continued on page 3)

Pravda renews attack on Bonn plan to deploy missiles

MOSCOW (R) — The official Soviet daily Pravda Saturday renewed criticism of the conservative government in Bonn for its resolve to go ahead with plans to deploy U.S. missiles in West Germany if it wins the March 6 general election.

An article by its Bonn correspondent, headed "Sanity Must Prevail", said the main concern of the ruling Christian Democrat (CDU) Party appeared to be how to distract the people from the anti-war movement and prevent sober assessment of the situation.

The newspaper made no reply to charges from Bonn Friday that the Soviet Union was trying to intervene in the election in favour of

leadership was ignoring dissenting noises from within its own ranks.

"The CDU/CSU/FDP leadership, to judge by all reports, has apparently tied itself to the obligation to the United States to clear the way for Pershing-2 and Cruise missiles 'in any event,'" it said.

West Germans were being subjected to masses of facts and figures designed to instill into their minds the idea of a Soviet military threat, while the U.S. wanted the deployment of the missiles in Europe to lessen the risk of a nuclear war involving its own territory, Pravda said.

The article gave the impression that the centre-right government's

Kohl retaliates

Chancellor Helmut Kohl has said Moscow has no chance of driving a wedge between West Germany and the United States on the issue of nuclear disarmament.

He voiced the belief in a West German Radio interview in which reference was made to Mr. Gromyko's call to West Europeans to distance themselves from the United States stance on nuclear disarmament.

The West German chancellor said: "Where we are concerned Mr. Gromyko will quite certainly not achieve this aim, and just as we are loyal allies, so will others be."

third term as president. There is no other candidate.

His overriding national problem is the climbing burden of debt, estimated by foreign experts at \$7.8 billion and fuelled by a chronic trade imbalance.

Travellers returning from the south have told of isolated cases in which southern troops mutinied against their Arab officers and refused to serve at garrisons in the north. One report said northern troops quelled unrest last month in the southernmost province of Equatoria.

The pro-government newspaper Al Sahafa Saturday quoted authoritative sources as saying dissidents who were arrested recently by Sudanese police had been specially trained to create instability in the south.

Weatherman predicts cold day

AMMAN (J.T.) — The depression which gripped Jordan Thursday afternoon is still affecting the area and is expected to stay on for another 24 hours, the weather bureau said Saturday. It will be cold and rainy and snow falls are expected in mountain areas, the bureau said. The bureau also advised drivers to drive carefully Sunday as roads would be slippery as a result of the formation of ice crystals. The depression, which was centred over Cyprus, has started moving to the north but the air mass will continue to affect the area, the bureau said.



The visiting foreign minister of Norway, Sverre Stray (left), accompanied by his Jordanian counterpart, Marwan Al Qasem, inspects a guard of honour mounted at Amman Airport upon his arrival Saturday (Petra photo)

Shultz optimistic Jordan will join 'peace process'

WASHINGTON (Agencies) — U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz met with top American labour leaders Friday in Florida and afterwards, at a news conference, said the United States feels that if conditions are good, Jordan would join the "Middle East peace process."

Mr. Shultz refused to discuss details of his off-the-record hour-long meeting with the executive council of the American Federation of Labour and Congress of Industrial Organisation (AFL-CIO) other than to say it involved a wide-ranging discussion of many topics in a very constructive atmosphere.

Many of the questions at his news conference in Bal Harbour, Florida, dealt with the U.S. economy, although it also touched on international rail issues.

Mr. Shultz said the United States is optimistic that King Hussein "genuinely wants to be part of the (Middle East) peace process under the right conditions." Mr. Shultz also said it should be obvious to people throughout the Middle East, particularly Palestinians, that "they have a tremendous amount to gain from the establishment of a peaceful situation in the Middle East and with Israel."

(Continued on page 3)

Norwegian foreign minister in Amman

AMMAN (J.T.) — Norwegian Foreign Minister Sverre Stray arrived here Saturday for a three-day visit to Jordan. Mr. Stray will be received in audience by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, and will hold talks with his Jordanian counterpart, Marwan Al Qasem, the Jordanian

estonian refugee camp at Baq'a. He will also visit archaeological sites in Jordan.

Mr. Stray, who is accompanied by a seven-member delegation, was met at Amman Airport by Mr. Qasem, and the Norwegian non-resident ambassador to Jordan.

According to Petra, Mr. Stray will be taken on a tour of the Pal-

State Department says Jordan has not requested for U.S. arms

WASHINGTON (Agencies) — The United States has not received any formal request from Jordan for advanced weapons which I think they (the senators) are addressing themselves to. So we would need to get that request before we would be able to respond," the deputy spokesman said.

Mr. Romberg's comments came in response to questions about a resolution submitted to Congress

there is no formal request from Jordan for the kinds of advanced weaponry which I think they (the senators) are addressing themselves to. So we would need to get that request before we would be able to respond," the deputy spokesman said.

(Continued on page 3)

OPEC launches urgent efforts to avert price war

BAKU (R) — The oil ministers of Venezuela and Iraq began an urgent round of shuttle visits between Middle East OPEC members Saturday as part of efforts to avert a world oil price war.

Venezuela's Humberto Calderon Berti had a second meeting in Riyadh with Saudi Minister Ahmad Zaki Yamani and later arrived in the United Arab Emirates (UAE). He plans to meet Kuwait's Ali Khalifa Al Sabah in London Monday, oil sources said.

The ministers were trying to forge a tentative agreement on an orderly reduction of about \$4 a barrel in OPEC's \$34 reference

had talks in Doha with OPEC leaders. He had taken part in a meeting of Gulf ministers on Tuesday and Wednesday in Riyadh, where agreement was reached in principle on an oil price cut in response to earlier cuts by non-OPEC Britain and Norway and Nigeria, an OPEC member.

The ministers were trying to forge a tentative agreement on an orderly reduction of about \$4 a barrel in OPEC's \$34 reference

addressing the conditions for the transfer of power to new political structures for the whole island.

Addressing the 51st congress of its Fiana Fail party, Ireland's largest, Mr. Haughey said such a conference would work out the conditions for the transfer of power to new political structures for the whole island.

He did not spell out who should take part in such a conference, but it was assumed it would include all the major parties involved: Britain, Ireland and the various groups in Northern Ireland.

The former prime minister, still heading the party after surviving three leadership challenges in 12 months, said Northern Ireland had shown itself as an unworkable and unsustainable political entity.

Northern Ireland, with a protestant majority wanting to maintain links with mainland Britain, and a Roman Catholic minority, has been torn by 13 years of sectarian violence.

"Northern Ireland survives only by virtue of an artificial life-support system which consists of a massive British military presence, a form of direct rule, colonial in character, and direct subsidies of over £1 billion (\$1.5 billion) a year," he said.

"What ought to happen now, and it cannot be much longer delayed, is that the two sovereign governments should come together and create a framework for a new political settlement," he added.

"The starting point for such a new political settlement must be an all-round constitutional conference to be convened on the basis that it would be a prelude to a final withdrawal of Britain from Ireland within a stipulated period of time, enabling the Irish people north and south to come together and freely determine their future," he went on.

A major responsibility of a constitutional conference would be to negotiate guarantees for the Protestants of Northern Ireland to protect their interests, he said.

In his opening speech, the president made no direct reference to the charges but said Sudan would "continue to resist attempts to undermine African unity and stability through foreign hegemony."

He is putting himself forward at the congress for re-election to a

Haughey calls for conference on N.Ireland

DUBLIN (R) — Irish opposition leader Charles Haughey called Saturday for an all-round constitutional conference as a prelude to a final withdrawal of Britain from Northern Ireland and reunification of the island.

The former prime minister, still heading the party after surviving three leadership challenges in 12 months, said Northern Ireland had shown itself as an unworkable and unsustainable political entity.

Northern Ireland, with a protestant majority wanting to maintain links with mainland Britain, and a Roman Catholic minority, has been torn by 13 years of sectarian violence.

FEATURES

Hong Kong police alert on immigrants

By Rajendra Bajpai
Reuter

HONG KONG — Increased vigilance on land and at sea has helped cut the flow of illegal immigrants from China to Hong Kong to a relative trickle but thousands reach the British colony every year in search of a better life.

The Chinese, mainly from neighbouring Guangdong province, show great ingenuity and often take great risks in their efforts to reach Hong Kong. Many are killed by sharks while attempting to swim to the colony.

They are convinced Hong Kong offers a life of luxury and that jobs are easily available, said Superintendent Vianney Willy-Furth of the marine police, whose men are responsible for blocking the sea route from China.

Last year 8,676 illegal immigrants were arrested compared to nearly 91,000 in 1979 when the flow was at its peak. About half a million have evaded capture in the past few years, pushing the colony's population to over five million and adding to the pressure on housing and civic amenities.

Army and police guard the 22-mile (36-kilometre) land border between China and Hong Kong. At sea 110 marine police boats keep watch on fishing junks, sampans and speed boats which might be trying to sneak in with cargos of immigrants.

Crime syndicates are largely responsible for ferrying the illegals to Hong Kong and sometimes the journey can end in tragedy. When their vessels are chased by police boats the crews sometimes dump their passengers into

the sea.

In one recent case marine police discovered the bodies of four children in tiny boxes fitted to a boat found on a beach. They were apparently left to die when the men bringing them in abandoned the craft to escape police patrols.

Many of the syndicates are run by former illegal immigrants who drifted into crime after failing to find lucrative jobs.

Police say the syndicates charge \$2,000 to 40,000 Hong Kong dollars (\$300 to \$6,000) to smuggle a person into the colony.

Children, some as young as four, are among the latest "commodities" being smuggled into Hong Kong.

Most of them are sent by parents still living in China, who hope their offspring will have a better future in the colony.

The men who bring them often use speed boats that run much faster than the larger police launches.

At night boats bringing the illegals switch off their lights in an effort to escape police detection. Police boats do the same in a constant war of nerves with the traffickers.

"Although it's easy they have not yet tried intercepting our communications and at the moment we have far more sophisticated equipment than they have," said Superintendent Willy-Furth.

The most intrepid are the illegals who attempt swimming to Hong Kong or wade through marshes.

Illegal immigrants who are captured are rarely jailed. Usually they are merely debriefed, finger-printed and sent home by the next train.

Will Montana update execution method?

By Peter Fox

Reuter

HELENA, MONTANA — Traditions in the old west die hard, but one longtime frontier ritual, ominously known as "the necktie party," may soon give way to the 20th Century's more modern methods of executing the condemned.

Death by hanging is, and has always been, Montana's only form of capital punishment.

For years the "hanging tree" in Helena was a landmark fathers showed their sons as a sign of the bad old days when vigilante groups took the law into their own hands.

Montana's legislature — which meets for only three months every other year — this week began considering a bill to introduce lethal injection as an alternative means

of execution. The bill would give three convicted murderers on Montana's "death row" and others to follow perhaps the last choice of their lives — to die by the rope or by the syringe.

Advocates of the bill being debated by Montana's Senate Judiciary Committee say a change is needed because hanging is an inhumane and possibly unconstitutional form of execution.

Only two other states still retain the gallows. Montana's last hanging took place 40 years ago.

Assistant State Attorney General John Maynard says the option of lethal injection should be introduced because the Supreme Court may rule that hanging violates the eighth amendment to the U.S. constitution, which forbids "cruel and unusual punishment."

But others, like Curt Chisolm, deputy director of the Montana Department of Institutions, which oversees the prison system, says death by injection would create an ethical conflict for doctors and nurses who would either have to act as executioners or train others to do so.

But Mr. Chisholm says his department does not want the responsibility and would prefer to remain "historical purists" leaving hanging for the Big Sky (Montana) sheriffs.

Montana's last execution was that of Philip "Slim" Coleman, a black man who confessed to the killing of a white woman. He was hanged on Sept. 10, 1943.

But some Montanans see the legislative discussion as a first step towards abolishing hanging, whose history here is an old as

Montana itself.

Lawlessness in Montana's frontier mining days of the 1860s prompted the formation of vigilantes and lynch law.

In 1981, the sheriff of Billings had a scaffold secretly built on the top of an eight-storey building in anticipation of an execution that the courts ordered stopped.

According to the sheriff, Richard Shaffer, "it is an art to hang someone. You have to have the correct dimensions. You have to know the man's height and weight, how far they will drop."

Sheriff Shaffer used World War II blueprints of scaffolds to build his and unveiled it shortly before a primary election in which he lost. One of his last acts in office was to take it down.

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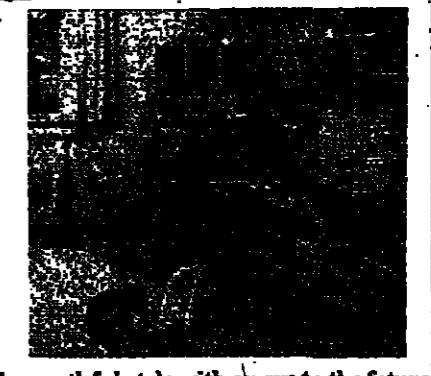
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HOME NEWS

U.S. mayors express strong appreciation of Jordan's efforts for Mideast peace

By Aiffah A. Kaloti
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — "We pray for peace along with you, we hope that this very difficult situation can be resolved by negotiation, and we deeply appreciate the immense responsibility undertaken in the region by Jordan and His Majesty King Hussein," a delegation of American mayors have unanimously declared.

At a press conference held here Friday evening, the party made some general comments on their week-long visit to Jordan. The tour was sponsored by the Jordan Society with the aim of raising the level of mutual understanding between America and Jordan through U.S. local officials.

"We", the mayors said, "both Democrats and Republicans alike support the initiative made by our president on Sept. 1, 1982." The mayors pointed out that they did not wish to deny, by such an endorsement, the importance of flexibility as they regard the initiative as a process and not a plan. "The value of the scheme will be judged by its results," they contended.

Although we were not able to speak on behalf of the U.S. government, we had the chance to discuss the very tense regional situation in the Middle East with His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, the mayors said. The mayors also expressed their thanks to His Majesty King Hussein, Her Majesty Queen Noor and the Jordanian society for acting as their hosts.

The U.S. delegation were particularly impressed by the Jordanian people. They were also struck by the knowledge and efficiency displayed by ministers and other officials in showing them around the country and its projects. They said that they were also very pleased by the frankness of people in answering their questions and the general affability of the discussions. "We are here as a group of mayors from various communities in the U.S. We observe, look, see, talk and will transmit our impressions to our communities," they emphasised.

The mayors said that their visit had been "excellent" in the sense that it had fulfilled bettered understanding between the two peoples especially in social, political, cultural, and historic aspects. "When we go back to our country, we will share our information and our tremendous admiration for your people," they said.

The delegation added that the successful projects, enshrined in the 5-year plan, which they had been shown made them feel more determined to make the aid available to support these projects.

The eight U.S. mayors pointed out that because they are "citizens of the world and citizens of their country", they are eager to achieve peace in the world and in the Mideast as a start.

They explained that their country has a diversity of opinion and thus needs time to promote the idea of the understanding with the Arab World.

The U.S. mayors said that they would try to exploit their impressions. "We deal with the media on a daily basis and if there is for example a Jordanian delegation arriving in our cities, then we will be in a position to publicise it to our people." In particular they felt that they could concentrate on the local rather than the national networks to attain this coverage.

Other mayors said that they would write extended features outlining their impressions of the visit, and would highlight themes considered of being of special importance.

In some cities, the mayors said, it is normal practice to give presentations to various societies in the community. "Our impressions and experiences of Jordan will be presented in this way," they said.

Beyond that, they said that they are interested in making contacts with Jordanian students studying in their cities, and intend to establish student exchange programmes.

Exchanges of talent, people and art exhibits in particular will help to promote understanding while making a big impact on the local media they said.

The Arab-American contacts might also result in the twinning of cities in the two countries. This would facilitate the setting up of study groups in the appropriate cities which would regularly visit the twin to maintain close contacts between cities and hence the two nations, they explained.

They said that during their visit to Jordan Valley, Petra and Aqaba discovered that their counterparts had similar thoughts on city management. This, they were sure, could only result in closer future cooperation and exchange of ideas. They added that intellectual and educational centres could also be used to increase contacts. "The University of Minnesota has received all the papers of Philip Hitti, a leading Middle East scholar in the U.S., and it is hoped to host a conference on the region in June at the university. This will enable many academics, cultural, community and ethnic groups to come together and discuss the area, thus ensuring a better understanding of the whole history of the Middle East, they said.

They added that the conference will give the officials of the various concerned nations a forum in which to discuss the present relationship between the U.S. and the countries of the Mideast.

An interview with the Jordan Times Mayor George Latimer of St. Paul Minnesota, whose mother is Lebanese, said that, although his mother did not speak Arabic, she was purely Lebanese in almost every sense. "Her personality, her values, her ideas all were middle eastern and they left a lasting impression on me until she died a year and a half ago."

Describing his visit, he said it was extraordinary in several significant ways. With reference to the Jordan Valley he said that it "was a memorable experience" because it was the result of developments since 1973 which has brought water and electricity to an area which had been inhabited for thousands of years but never enjoyed these facilities.

"The population of the Valley" he added, "is now approaching 100,000, while 15 years ago it was only about 20,000." Mr. Latimer said that he had met officials from several international development agencies and was particularly impressed by those who had established the potash plant on the Dead Sea. Commenting on this successful project he said "this would be the envy of any mayor in America."

Progress in the educational field and the astuteness of Jordan's young people had also impressed Mr. Latimer. In addition to the talent and brain power of the Jordanians, Mr. Latimer said that patriotism and love for the community is another striking characteristic of Jordanians. Mr. Latimer then praised the strong familial ties which help give the nation its feeling of stability. In this way, he was sure that Jordan would have an important role to play in promoting the stability of the region. Indeed he believed it to be the intellectual and technical hub of the whole region of the Middle East:

In answer to inquiries about the extent of the Arab stereotype in the U.S. he said that a caricature view of the Arabs did exist in U.S. "I think we have a long way to go because Americans tend to think about foreign affairs in stereotypical ways, not only in the Middle East but all over the world," he said. He explained that the average American, however hard working, tends to think of the community, the state and the nation. Thus when there is a major crisis, Americans tend not to be well educated in world affairs, he said. "I think that the oil embargo and the oil crisis, which we underwent twice

in one decade, left a mark, and the media helped to make this mark worse," he said.

Frankly speaking, Mr. Latimer said that Americans think that "every nation in the Middle East is 'spilling over with oil,' which is obviously not true." They also became very aware of the problem, he added, because of the obvious effect that the oil crisis had on U.S. economy.

Mr. Latimer said that this is the stereotypical thinking adopted by U.S. citizens in relation to the Arab World, and this necessitates a considerable amount of education to correct.

Being a local official in the U.S., Mr. Latimer said that he will attempt to take advantage of this opportunity to build bridges of understanding between the two nations. "I have more than a passing interest in the region because of my ancestry, my love for the region, its people and because of my firm belief that peace in this region is critical to the future of the world," he said.

Referring to the Reagan announcement of Sept. 1, Mr. Latimer said "it is an overture, but sound and courageous move on the part of the president, although I happen to belong to the opposing political party."

"I think President Reagan set out guidelines which, although very general, at least gave some hope to all parties concerned," he concluded.

Bylaw favours lorry owners with Jordanian licensed vehicles

AMMAN (Petra) — Jordanian lorry owners, whose vehicles have been licensed in Arab countries, can obtain Jordanian licenses by paying the customs duty on them by instalments spread over 12 months, according to a new by-law endorsed by the cabinet.

Ministry of Finance and Customs Under-Secretary Adel Al Qudah said that those who wish to benefit from the new bylaw will have to submit applications by June 30, 1983, at the latest.

The announcement was greeted by Mr. Mustafa Hashem Akileh, director of the Jordanian Garages Union, who said the new measure will safeguard lorry owners' rights, and give them protection under the Jordanian law.

Nearly 4,000 lorry owners will benefit from the new measure which will no doubt facilitate land transportation between Jordan and neighbouring Arab countries, Mr. Akileh said.

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Pharmacists plan Amman conference in March

AMMAN (Petra) — Secretary-General of the Iraqi Foreign Ministry Abdul Malek Al Yassin arrived here Saturday for a one-day visit to Jordan.

He will have talks with Jordanian officials on subjects of mutual interest.

Mr. Yassin was met at Amman Airport by Iraqi ambassador to Jordan Ibrahim Shuaib Sultan and several officials from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Justice Minister Ahmad Al Tarawneh delivered the opening speech in which he paid tribute to the federation and its contribution to the furtherance of just Arab causes.

The Palestinians are leading a very difficult and miserable life under Zionist occupation which amounts to a blatant violation of all international charters, the minister said. He appealed to Arab Jurists, to publicise the extent of the Palestinian people's plight in all international forums, and to work towards restoring their just and legitimate rights.

Differences among Arab countries are only marginal and should be set aside as only through joint Arab action can the Arab governments fulfill the aspirations and objectives of the Arab people, Mr. Tarawneh said.

AJF President Shabib Al Maliki said cooperation between the

Arab jurists meeting opens in Amman

AMMAN (Petra) — The Arab Federation of Jurists (AJF) opened its second meeting at the Professional Associations Complex in Amman Saturday.

The three-day meeting's agenda include such subjects as human rights and liberties and freedoms in the Arab World. The participants, who represent 13 Arab states, will also elect new AJF president and will discuss the federation's activities in the past year, as well as endorsing a new budget for AJF's activities in 1983. The meeting will also prepare the ground for an Arab seminar on the rights of Arabs to settle and work in the Arab World.

Referring to the Iraq-Iran war, Mr. Maliki said that "all Arabs have a national duty to support Iraq and to aid its endeavours to defend the Arab Nation. Despite the various peaceful initiatives which Iraq has accepted, Iran persists in its aggression and refuses to stop the war, Mr. Maliki said. He called on Arab Jurists to help bring about a peaceful solution to the Gulf war.

Also addressing the opening session was Jordanian Association of Jurists President Adib Halashe, who outlined the AJF's activities on the local and international levels. He also paid tribute to Arab Jurists in the occupied lands and praised their heroic solidarity in the face of Israel's aggressive policies.

The meeting, which continues at the Regency Palace Hotel in Amman, is being attended by delegates from Jordan, Lebanon, Algeria, Tunisia, Morocco, Kuwait, Sudan, North Yemen, South Yemen, Syria, Libya and Palestine. The Baghdad-based AJF was founded by the Arab League in 1975.

Islamic bank meeting to convene in Jeddah

AMMAN (J.T.) — Jordan will participate in the Islamic Development Bank's board of governors' meeting, which is due to open in Jeddah early in March.

On the agenda will be the bank's activities over the past year and its project finance programmes for Arab and Islamic countries. The governors will also elect a new board chairman and deputy and will fix a date and venue for the governors' eighth annual meeting.

Jordan will be represented at the meeting by Finance Minister Saleh Masa'deh, who will chair the meetings, and Jordanian Central Bank Governor Mohammad Sa'id Nabulsi.

The bank, founded in 1975, has 45 members from various Arab and Islamic countries. It aims to foster and consolidate economic development and to innovate social projects in its member countries.

The bank's major shareholders are Saudi Arabia (26.22 per cent), Libya (16.38 per cent), the United Arab Emirates (14.4 per cent) and Kuwait (13.11 per cent).

In Jordan the bank has financed such firms as the Jordan Petroleum Refinery Company, the Maritime Lines Company, the Jordan Cement Factory Company and a number of projects undertaken by the Ministry of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs.

Continued from page 1

'No request from Jordan for U.S. arms'

On a related subject, Mr. Romberg said the United States has not yet received the text of comments made by Jordan's Foreign Minister Marwan Al Qasem in Beirut. Mr. Qasem reportedly said Jordan would not enter the Middle East peace negotiations unless Israel withdraws its forces from Lebanon and agrees not to build any more settlements on the occupied West Bank.

"The two matters he is reported to have mentioned," Mr. Romberg noted, "are issues in which we are also very interested. And

OPEC launches urgent efforts

price to stimulate demand for crude and prevent a competitive price-discounting scramble, the sources said.

With danger of a price war growing daily, Libyan Minister Kamal Hassan Al Maghoush stayed until Saturday in Riyadh after the Gulf ministers' meeting which called for an OPEC session next week. Mr. Maghoush, who has been in contact with Iran, left Saturday for Cyprus, apparently on his way home.

Gulf oil analysts said it appeared that Mr. Calderon was arguing at most for a modest cut in OPEC's price and was also trying to devise a workable production sharing agreement.

UAE Minister Mana Said Al Oteiba announced after this week's Riyadh meeting of Saudi Arabia and its Gulf allies that OPEC would meet next week in Geneva or Vienna.

But informed oil sources in Riyadh, noting the flurry of contacts now under way, said an OPEC conference might have to be del-

Gary Hart opposing U.S. arms sales to Jordan, and calling on Jordan to enter direct peace negotiations with Israel.

The resolution—which was also offered by a majority in the 97th Congress—was sponsored by 37 Democrats and 14 Republicans.

In remarks on the Senate floor, Mr. Heinz warned against what he called a policy by "trying to buy peace with weapons of war."

Sen. Kennedy said, "Our first priority must be peace, not another escalation of the arms race in

we have a clearly stated policy on that." President Reagan, in his Sept. 1 "fresh start" peace initiative, called for a freeze on building new settlements and expanding existing ones, and the United States is actively involved in trying to negotiate an agreement aimed at achieving the total withdrawal of all foreign forces from Lebanon.

A majority of 51 members of

the Senate joint the resolution offered by Republicans John Heinz and Rudy Boschwitz and Democrats Edward Kennedy and

Sen. Kennedy and

ayed beyond the proposed date to allow time for further talks on what might be the last chance to prevent a price war.

Mr. Calderon arrived in Saudi Arabia Friday night from Paris, where he had an unexpected session with the oil ministers of Algeria and Kuwait and non-OPEC Mexico.

Mexico, whose rising output has contributed to the oil crisis, said Friday it was delaying an expected price cut to allow the exporter group more time to prevent a price collapse.

The oil sources said Mr. Calderon, who wants an urgent dialogue between oil producers and consumers to defuse the crisis, might also meet Irish Energy Minister John Bruton, who arrived in Riyadh Friday night for a visit to Geneva or Vienna.

Saudi Arabia, the world's largest exporter, holds the key to an agreement on cutting prices. Along with other Gulf states, it has borne the brunt of the \$34 benchmark.

OPEC's crisis stems from an unexpectedly sharp fall-off in demand for its crude because of recession in the oil-consuming West, conservation and the use of alternative energy.

the Middle East."

Both contended Israel's security would be endangered by such sales.

Mr. Heinz said the administration has not announced its intention to sell specific arms to Jordan, but is reported to have discussed the sale of highly advanced weapons with Jordanian officials.

These weapons are said to include F-5G and F-16 aircraft, portable Stinger anti-aircraft missiles, sidewinder air-to-air missiles and laser-guided bombs.

Elizabeth begins U.S. tour

Security was tight as the 5,769-ton royal yacht steamed into the harbour after a leisurely journey from Mexico. Police marksmen with automatic weapons stood guard on nearby rooftops.

Twenty demonstrators holding up a banner reading "Home Rights for Ireland" stood on the shore, but there was no other sign of promised protests.

There was a holiday spirit on the dockside, where 3,000 invited guests maoeptured for a glimpse of the queen. Thousands more lined the coastline around San Diego Bay, clapping and cheering.

Some wore hats with signs on them reading "Welcome Liz and Phil." Others held up a sign reading "Welcome to the Land of the Free."

The queen will be given a star-studded Hollywood reception when she visits 20th Century Fox studios Sunday night.

Police chief describes Assyut violence

Muslim fundamentalists that the groups grew larger with encouragement and later resorted to violence.

The defendants, members of the outlawed *Jihad* (holy struggle) organisation, are accused of plotting to overthrow the government and killing 66 policemen in the town of Assyut two days after the assassination of President Anwar Sadat on Oct. 6, 1981.

To the shouts of some defendants who called him a liar, Gen. Soliman said he first heard shots in the town on Oct. 8 while praying in a mosque with other police officials.

"I ran out of the mosque to see what was happening and saw dozens of unarmed terrified policemen running away. I saw four men shooting at my troops," Gen. Soliman told the court.

He said he later went with the security chief to the police headquarters, by then controlled by Muslim groups and tried to break in, using an armoured car, but failed when a bullet hit one of the tyres.

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Here come the heroes

IT may sound odd to strike a similarity between the British electrician, who reportedly liked being hero so much that he started fires only to have the glory of putting them out himself, and each of the 51 American senators who last Thursday joined forces to block U.S. arms sales to Jordan even before a request was made. But, all the same, there is not a big difference between arson and political hypocrisy, for both involve the victimisation of some people or a cause.

Surely, the honourable gentlemen of Capitol Hill, being the elected representatives of the American people and experienced politicians they are supposed to be, cannot be so easily misled to believe that Israel's security will be threatened by providing Jordan with American weapons, unless of course their access to the Library of Congress' records on Israeli and Arab armaments is totally blocked. Their contention that the weapon card must be played by the U.S. to get Jordan to enter direct peace negotiations with Israel also has to be wrong. Jordan, the senators and others might rec-

all, did not yield to whatever American pressure resulting from the Camp David accords, and its price for joining the peace process now or ever is not, and cannot be, American jets and armour. Peace, based on justice and made to last, is what we Arabs, especially here in Jordan, have always sought and will continue to seek, regardless of what others thought or did.

The move by the 51 senators does not come as a surprise to us, as we have seen and heard worse things coming from Washington before. What is even less surprising is the fact that the bipartisan resolution, sponsored by Republican Senators John Heinz and Rudy Boschwitz and Democrats Edward Kennedy and Gary Hart, comes at this particular time when Israel would do anything to prevent the American president and his administration from pursuing their proposals for the Middle East. If there is something to be learned from this, it is that the fire that 51 U.S. senators are trying to start might end up injuring some Americans but would produce no congressional heroes.

JORDAN'S ARABIC PRESS EDITORIALS

Al Ra'i: U.S. must thwart Israeli 'veto'

Israel's Prime Minister Menachem Begin Friday outlined his government's position in relation to the American peace proposals regarding: an Israeli withdrawal from Lebanon; the freezing of new settlements in the West Bank and Gaza and a genuine participation by Palestinian representatives in the future peace negotiations.

According to the Israeli prime minister, a withdrawal from Lebanon can in no way be considered a priority, thus impeding any practical solution to the Palestinian problem. This shows that Israel's main objective continues to be to manipulate the Lebanese situation in order to deflect attention

away from the more fundamental Palestinian question.

Therefore the Israeli leadership continues to test the United States' credibility. President Reagan's recent statements, which contained outstandingly positive aspects, are challenged by Israel's prime minister even before the Israeli cabinet session to debate them. In the face of this, now more than ever the U.S. administration must demonstrate its ability to thwart what has effectively become an Israeli veto, which has to date stymied all its peace proposals.

Al Dustour: Israeli hatred turns in on itself

Israeli Prime Minister Menachem Begin called upon the Israelis to renounce hatred and love one another. Israel Head of State Navon gave a similar warning in a recent interview with the French magazine *Nouvelle Observateur*. One can only deduce that the Israeli leadership have become frightened that their extremist and aggressive attitude towards the Arabs has now become a general trend in Israeli society.

Nonetheless, warnings about a possible civil war in Israel have long been made by several Israelis who felt that a people capable of persecuting Palestinians and of perpetrating the indiscriminate massacre of civilians had the potential for self-destruction.

Using terrorist and aggressive means, the Zionist

Sawt Al Shaab: U.S. tries to tame the monster it created

President Reagan's recent statements demonstrate a clear and basic gap between how the Americans and Israelis view how to handle the Lebanese problem and the greater question of peace and security in the Middle East.

The U.S. president believes that the continued Israeli occupation of Lebanon weakens the chances for peace in the region, and might jeopardise all efforts at seeking solution to the Palestinian problem.

Washington, which now realises that peace is the best way of protecting Israel, is suffering the consequences of its unlimited military support for Is-

were able to set up a state; but could the continued use of such means go on without affecting the mentality of those who make up such an entity? The war-lords are now complaining that these contradictions are threatening the peace and integrity of Israeli society, but could it really be expected that militaristic hysteria and ceaseless war-mongering would produce any different results?

Those who once fell victim to Zionist propaganda which promised the peaceful and democratic paradise called the Israeli state now find it ironically tragic that they have to encounter the fiercest of all injustices and the loss of hope for a peaceful life, due to the very basic elements led to the initial founding of the state.

Sawt Al Shaab: U.S. tries to tame the monster it created

zel, which in turn over emphasised the Israeli concept of security which is reliant upon the "citadel" mentality.

Israel's main concern at present is to keep U.S. diplomacy out of its way, and try to manipulate the time factor to realise its annexationist and hegemonic dreams. This danger has long been pointed out by Jordan, which has always seen the security of all states and peoples in the region as dependent upon the establishment of a just and durable peace that would guarantee the well-being and prosperity of all.

15 billion barrels of oil off Canada's coast

Row over who owns what

By Paul Majendie
Reuter

ST. JOHN'S, Newfoundland — Off Canada's bleak Atlantic coast lies a treasure chest that will stay shut until the federal government and Newfoundland agree on how to turn the key and unlock up to 15 billion barrels of oil.

Canada has resources that other countries can only dream about, but when it comes to managing those untold riches, all the divisions and rivalries in its two-tier federal-provincial system of government come bubbling to the surface. The two-year row over who owns what off Newfoundland is a classic case. Now, with the latest round of ministerial talks broken off in mutual acrimony, the courts are to plunge into the dispute while the treasure trove stays buried.

The province of Newfoundland, a latecomer which joined the Canadian confederation in 1949, argues that it owns the offshore resources which could help Canada win energy self-sufficiency. But the federal government in Ottawa insists on having ultimate control over the pace and manner of development, and so far they have been unable to agree on sharing the wealth.

While that gap remains unb-

ridgeable, the oil companies keep sinking exploratory wells in the hostile sea, though commercial production will not start before 1990.

Eighty-four men lost their lives in the hunt for oil when the giant oil rig Ocean Ranger turned turtle in a raging storm last February off the Hibernia Field.

Hibernia, often likened to the Forties Field in the equally unforgiving North Sea, has potential reserves of up to 1.8 billion barrels. Surveys have shown there could be 10-15 billion barrels altogether off the east coast.

In the Arctic, Canada faces a major technological challenge in the battle to wrest oil from the Beaufort Sea. In Alberta, huge reserves in the oil sands cannot be economically tapped until mining methods are improved. But off Newfoundland, politics are proving to be a bigger problem than passing icebergs.

The supreme court is now going to look into the whole question of offshore jurisdiction but Newfoundland's Energy Minister William Marshall stressed: "There has to be a political solution to the problem. It's going to be won eventually in the court of public opinion."

The political squabble unfortunately coincided with disarray in OPEC that could spell lower prices in the world oil market. But while that might hurt investment, Steven Millan of Newfoundland's Petroleum Directorate, a provincial watchdog agency, argues that the offshore is just too bright an area to leave alone.

Newfoundland, with Canada's highest unemployment and lowest

per capita income, got caught once before on an energy issue and has since become very wary of what it calls "the mainland."

Under a contract Newfoundland now regrets, the neighbouring province of Quebec buys hydro-electric power from Newfoundland and sells it big profit in the United States.

Mr. Marshall told Reuters in an interview: "We were stabbed to death in that case. It causes us to be firmer this time." Last month he and federal Energy Minister Jean Chretien confidently announced that they had the basis for an agreement on offshore revenue-sharing and management of resources.

But Mr. Marshall insisted on the understanding being put in writing and that proved to be a sticking point. Mr. Chretien told reporters: "I'm terribly sad because I thought very honestly we had come quite close to an agreement."

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COME TO THINK OF IT...

Dismissal is no rejection

One didn't have to go to Algiers to see what was happening in the Palestine National Council's (PNC) meetings. Algiers came almost to everybody as a shock. They thought that the PNC had "rejected" the so-called Reagan plan" for peace in the Middle East and that perhaps all hope has faded away as we are quickly approaching the midnight hour.

I might sound a lot more optimistic, which I am not, but trying only to pick up my steps rationally in the darkness.

While doing so, I liked the BBC's precision in its choice of words to convey that piece of news. It said that the PNC had "dismissed" (rather than "rejected") the plan as inadequate for realising the hopes and dreams of the Palestinians in a state of their own in Palestine. But then nobody, including the

Americans, had said or implied that the Reagan plan was adequate or that it would establish a state for the Palestinians. And in that sense the PNC did exactly what it was expected to do: State facts.

If anybody had expected the Palestinians or the PNC to sing praise to Reagan or his plan, he (or she) must have been grossly mistaken. The Americans, in fact, had stated openly that they did not expect the American plan to satisfy the Arabs as a whole or any single Arab country or entity. Only an Arab plan can satisfy the Arabs, including the PLO, have done just that by adopting the Fez Arab plan.

It is significant that the Americans did not reject or dismiss the Arab plan adopted at the

Fez summit last September, because it was not addressed to the United States and therefore the U.S. administration did not have to accept it or reject it. It might have considered it more like an Arab celebration of intentions or more of an Arab interpretation of Resolution 242 to which the Arabs are entitled.

The question now is: How can the Reagan plan and the Arab one mesh together? It is not very difficult to see that. The following observations might provide some clues:

Much as the Fez plan was not addressed to the Americans, the Reagan plan was not addressed to the PLO. So any rejection or dismissal by either party of the other's plan does not affect in the least the on-going peace process. On the other hand, the so-called Re-

gan plan is not a plan yet, but is an initiative starting beforehand, and not paragraphs work. It was unthinkable for the PNC to endorse the "Reagan plan" being what it is. And had it endorsed it, the Palestinians meeting would have deserved the accusation levelled at it by some quarters as having been stage-managed.

The PNC has endorsed Mr. Arafat's line and given him a large sum to move in. By endorsing the Jordanian-Palestinian distinctive link, the PNC in fact gave Jordan also the room needed to take advantage of the American relatively good intentions and make use of the "positive" elements in those intentions in order to rescue the land.

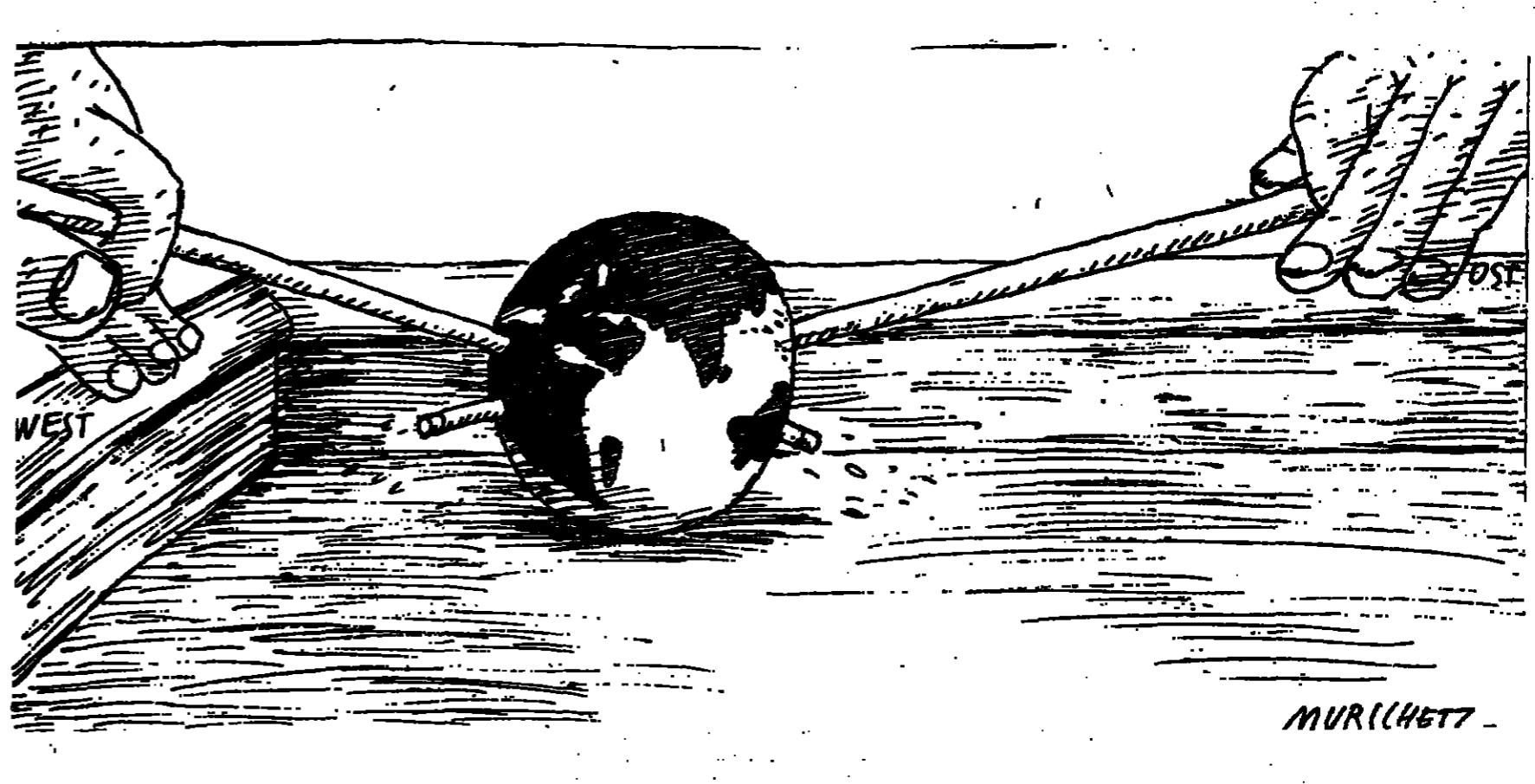
One can see the resolutions of the PNC as a vote of trust in Jordan and whatever moves it needs to take. The PNC would, of course, have to debate and approve anything that might be

given to the Palestinians in the end, not before it is given. That is what parades work.

It was unthinkable for the PNC to endorse the "Reagan plan" being what it is. And had it endorsed it, the Palestinians meeting would have deserved the accusation levelled at it by some quarters as having been stage-managed.

In the light of this, one expects some significant Arab moves in the near future. It might be also said now, that Yasser Arafat deserves a tipping of the hat for the way he has managed to preserve the Palestinian national unity through a democratic process and come to grips with the realities of the situation at the same time.

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Churches in NATO countries have become a pressure group for peace

By John Rogers
Reuters

LONDON — Christian churches in NATO countries are playing a growing role in the raging debate over nuclear weapons, often in conflict with governments. They have become a pressure group for peace — though not necessarily for nuclear disarmament — in intense argument over NATO plans to base 572 new U.S. missiles in West Germany, Britain, Italy, Belgium and the Netherlands from next December.

In some countries, such as the Netherlands, church leaders are in the vanguard of the anti-nuclear movement opposed to the Western alliance's missile deployment plan. In others, such as France and Belgium, the church has played little role. But in some other NATO nations, both Roman Catholic and Protestant churches are taking a stand on the nuclear debate, one of this year's biggest political issues.

They are increasingly scrutinising government policies, coming out against the first use of nuclear arms in warfare, and questioning NATO's doctrine of deterrence — building up a nuclear force to discourage the Soviet Union from using its own.

The churches, increasingly vocal, are adding their moral authority to public concern over the nuclear arms race and stressing the dangers of war with weapons of mass destruction.

In Britain, the Church of England stepped back this month from a looming row with Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher — already combatting an active anti-nuclear movement — by rejecting a working party's report advocating unilateral dismantling of the British nuclear deterrent. Instead the church's ruling synod urged Britain and its NATO allies "to maintain adequate forces to guard against nuclear blackmail and to deter nuclear and non-nuclear aggressors."

U.S. bishops are expected to endorse the controversial letter in May, without major changes. Although the Vatican neither approved nor condemned the U.S. draft, its growing preoccupation with the nuclear issue was underscored when it sponsored talks last month between the U.S. bishops and their colleagues from six West European countries.

The meeting asserted the church's moral authority to speak on issues of war and peace. Italian Roman Catholic bishops earlier expressed solidarity with their American colleagues, saying they feared NATO's plan to base 112 U.S. Cruise missiles in Sicily was

the first step in "the atomic rearmament of Europe."

Pope John Paul, head of the Roman Catholic Church, has appealed passionately this year for mutual and balanced disarmament.

"The powers which confront each other must be able to undertake the various stages of disarmament together, and commit themselves to each stage in equal degree," he said in a new year's address.

The Pope has also said that the policy of deterrence could be justified as a step to disarmament.

"In current condition," he said last June, "deterrence based on balance, certainly not as an end in itself as a step on the way towards a progressive disarmament, may still be judged morally acceptable."

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The real cost of war: A doctor's experience in Beirut

"The deaths and suffering caused by the Israeli invasion of Lebanon shocked the world when shown in newspapers and on television," says Dr. Amal Shamma. "But the reality was much, much worse."

Dr. Shamma should know. As a paediatrician working in Beirut, she has had first-hand experience of Lebanon's tragic history of violence from the 1975 civil war to last summer's Israeli invasion. In Amman recently, she gave an exclusive interview to *Afifah A. Kaloti*.



Dr. Shamma is head of the department of paediatrics and of emergency services at the Berber Medical Centre in Beirut. She obtained her medical degree at the American University of Beirut (AUB) in 1968 and then spent four and a half years at Johns Hopkins University Hospital in Maryland, USA.

Last October she paid a return visit to the USA at the invitation of the Washington-based Arab Women's Council, to talk to American audiences about the human reality of what happened in Lebanon during and after the June 1982 Israeli invasion.

Dr. Shamma - an Arab-American who has worked for seven and a half years in the Berber Medical Centre - said that the types of casualties admitted to Beirut's hospitals during last summer's Israeli invasion were totally different from those inflicted on people through all the years of the civil war.

"The perspective of the human sufferings and human costs was not adequately covered by the U.S. press, and it was very important for people all over the world to understand what had happened from a human point of view," she said.

Citing the inhuman actions of the Israeli invasion, Dr. Shamma pointed out that the casualties received were mutilated with severe multiple injuries and many of them were received in "bits and pieces". "I am not exaggerating, I am trying to be as accurate as possible."

"The perspective of the human sufferings and human costs was not adequately covered by the U.S. press, and it was very important for people all over the world to understand what had happened from a human point of view," she said.

During the Israeli shelling of Beirut, the number of people who were brought in dead on arrival was much higher than the hospital had ever received before - between 20 and 30 per cent. "The serious casualties who required emergency operations rated between 50 and 60 per cent," Dr. Shamma added.

Unlike the civil war, a very small percentage had minor injuries. "Bullet injuries did not exist at all, for it was not face-to-face battle; it was always war from a distance," she commented.

Bombs not less than half a ton were continuously dropped from

The kinds of weapons used by the Israeli forces caused injuries which had not been seen before during the civil war, she said. "However, I am not justifying the civil war and I am not suggesting that some wars are good, and some are bad. All are bad and tragic," she said.

The Berber Medical Centre in Beirut is the second largest hospital after the American University Hospital (AUH). "Although every single specialism was represented in the hospital, with highly trained staff, good organisation and administration, and seven and a half years' experience, in June 1982 we were still not prepared for what happened," she said.

Physicians during the civil war felt that they could help cases brought into casualty, but during the Israeli invasion the physicians' failure rate was much higher because the extent of the injuries and the scale of casualties were so much greater."

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Bombs not less than half a ton were continuously dropped from

planes. "Each one of them could level a ten-storey building - hence the massive casualties at all times."

The type of weapons used by the Israeli forces were new to Lebanon, she said, and this had a profound effect on the type of injuries sustained.

Cluster bombs, used by the Israelis, are either dropped from planes or shot from mortars. When they explode in the air, 500 to 600 small bombs - "fitting in the palm of the hand" - are released.

Children are mostly the victims of cluster bombs "for the pieces released are shiny, and they are of different shapes looking like bats, small cylinders and balls, attracting the attention of children," Dr. Shamma said. If these pieces do not explode on immediate contact with the ground, they definitely do if touched by anyone. "A lot of children who found these small objects picked them up, and were brought to hospital either without hands or arms or legs or feet."

Other cases were unidentifiable, for they were cut up in pieces by fragmentation bombs. These bombs, she added, would explode in the air or on impact into very large, knife-like pieces of shrapnel. "Arms and legs were cut off and sometimes heads. This kind of bomb caused appalling mutilation and lots of the injured died because of the severity of the wounds."

The hospital also admitted patients burnt by phosphorus bombs. These bombs were used extensively in all areas of Beirut. "Their effect is like sitting in fire, they continue to burn the patient unless the phosphorus is removed. Such a situation should be treated fast." These bombs, she said, are dropped from the air, or shot from gun-boats or tanks. It is often difficult to identify that the burn is caused by phosphorus and it is not easy to find and pull out. "We received a very large number of burn cases, but only 25 victims were identified definitely as being burnt by phosphorus bombs. We actually picked the phosphorus out of their bodies. Only three of these were combatants and the rest civilians."

Also used in Beirut were contaminated objects dropped from planes which caused very severe allergic skin reactions. "These objects were pieces of paper and toys which when picked up developed skin swelling and itching," Dr. Shamma emphasised that these weapons were used in all areas of the city "not necessarily against military targets". Commenting on the intended Israeli targets she said, "The Israelis keep on saying that they chose certain places in aiming their artillery, and I believe them. I am sure that when they aimed at civilian areas they meant to aim at those areas."

"After the ceasefire, I went out of the hospital to see the damage from the shelling, and in a stretch of road that extended for a length of only one kilometre from the hospital, four apartment buildings were completely levelled," says Dr. Shamma. "These buildings were not military, they were not storage depots, and there was not a single tank in the area to justify any claim that the Israelis might have been mistaken."

However, the effect of congested beds in a small space was that plenty of patients got infections because of the uncovered wounds. "Wounds caused by mis-

given the chance to be treated in the most advanced hospitals in the U.S. equipped with the most sophisticated equipment. I am sure they would not have been able to handle these injuries any better than us."

The weapons used were so effective that most victims, she said, either died or ended up seriously handicapped. "Some 25 per cent of the patients admitted to our hospital ended up seriously handicapped. About 90 per cent of the casualties were civilians and 25 per cent of these were children below the age of 15." Most of the children's injuries were amputation, severe burns and paralysis, she added. "Our physicians' wits could not match the weapons being used. The weapons really did what they were supposed to do, and that was to kill people in masses," she commented.

The Berber Hospital itself was shelled randomly from July 11 to August 1, and continuously from August 1 to August 12. The hospital, in west Beirut, is very close to the so-called "green line" - an unofficial line which divided Beirut into west and east - and this area was continuously exposed to fire. "Beyond any shadow of doubt, the Israelis shelled the hospital deliberately and intentionally", said Dr. Shamma. "Red Crescent flags were lifted up on the roof identifying it as being a hospital, but to no avail". The shelling of the hospital, Dr. Shamma said, paralysed its ability to function. "It caused a gradual loss in staff as well as a gradual loss in wards and facilities including operating rooms, laboratories, generators, equipment, medications and food," she said.

During the civil war, despite the difficulties and danger, the staff residing in hospital did not leave and the day staff kept commuting back and forth. "The Israeli shelling, however, spread fear among the staff and a very high percentage of them left the hospital," she said.

Within the first couple of weeks of Israeli shelling, Dr. Shamma said, the staff which totalled 92 people, went down to a total of only 15. There was more than one reason for this high percentage of staff loss. "Some left out of fear, many were trapped outside the city, and some left during the last days of the blockade," she explained. The last category left because their children could not survive in the absence of water and food supplies, and hence they decided that their children should not bear anymore sacrifice," she said.

"They kept holding on and until most of them reached a breaking point, and every day we woke up to find somebody had gone." Consequently most of the wards were shut down because of the inavailability of adequate staff. The 200 beds were reduced to 135 concentrated in eight wards, including portable beds in corridors, "so that we had all the time to pass around wet masks enabling us all to continue breathing."

By August 12 the only thing that saved the hospital from running out of everything was the fact that the hospital was run out of patients, said Dr. Shamma.

Israeli soldiers entered the hospital on September 16, adding to the destruction. The Israelis, after occupying the hospital, claimed they were looking for armed men and arms caches. "They shot at people from the hospital, using it as a military base, totally disrespecting the fact that a hospital should not be used in this way," says Dr. Shamma.

"During my tour to the United States, I was always bugged by the statement that if hospitals were shelled during the Israeli invasion, it was because they were being used as Palestinian military bases and had arms hidden in them." As an eyewitness, Dr. Shamma made it clear to U.S. officials that this was never true. "The only time that the hospital was used as a military base was when the Israelis invaded the hospital," she asserted.

The Israelis claimed that they were going to the top floors in search of armed men. Dr. Shamma pointed out. But instead, they went into an annex adjacent to the hospital building, which included staff residential quarters and surgical clinics. "They went into the living quarters of the nurses, the physicians' clinics and laboratories; they broke down the doors, stole valuables, and destroyed the equipment."

Worse vandalism was to follow.

"In one clinic in the building next to the hospital," says Dr. Shamma, "the Israelis defaced on the desk, sprayed ink on all the paintings, and stole 13,000

Lebanese pounds from a drawer. In one of the residences, they pulled out all the sheets from the closet, spread them on the floor and defecated on them."

This sort of vandalism brings respect to those who perpetrate it -- not on us as they thought it would," said Dr. Shamma.

Despite the damage within a month after the Israeli invasion, the Berber hospital became functional again. "We have been able to retrieve a few rooms and one operating theatre and we are steadily trying to make one floor after another available for use" says Dr. Shamma.

Berber cannot afford to losing a major hospital, she added, for it already has a shortage of hospital beds.

The rebuilding of the Berber hospital is especially important because the Red Crescent hospitals do not function on the scale they used to, Dr. Shamma explained. The Red Crescent used to treat the poor to go to other hospitals.

The rebuilding of our hospital will take some time because it was extensively damaged," she pointed out. "And as a privately owned establishment -- it depends entirely on its own income to carry out reconstruction and routine normal duties," she added.

Dr. Shamma says there are going to be subtle, long-lasting effects on people as a result of the Israeli invasion. "During the shelling all the children were terrified to death. Children saw dead people and ugly scenes that they should not have seen. Lots of mothers have reported their children's behavioural changes. They do not play as much as they used to; most of the time they stick to their fathers and mothers, due to their fear that they might loose them any time, just as they had seen the loss of the parents of their relatives, friends and neighbours." Some children now describe the horrible battles as if they were a cartoon film.

For adults, Dr. Shamma said, death became a normal part of their lives. Some expressed their fears by completely withdrawing from emotional involvements and some by getting very attached to people. "Most people became very fatalistic, and this made them survive and enable them to function," she added.

The difficulties, the human sufferings and tragedies experienced by the hospital staff through all the years of war since 1975 taught them the most important principles in handling mass casualties. "The hospital is not a military one, nor was it equipped to admit and treat large numbers of casualties at the same time."

Hospital organisation in such a situation has to revolve around the emergency room in the first place, and the other work of the hospital comes second. The first thing we learnt was to make use of what we had at hand in terms of both equipment and personnel," she added.

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The importance of maintaining an adequate staff was another important thing we learnt through the years of war. Dr. Shamma pointed out. The staff experienced some difficulties and failures in acquiring the necessary knowledge and learning the most

important principles in time of war.

The shortages of staff, medicines and food supplies were due largely to the fact that nobody expected Beirut to be Israel's next target after the invasion of southern Lebanon, and nobody envisaged a blockade of Beirut, she said.

During the seven and a half years of the civil war, the Berber hospital never ran seriously short of supplies. But during the first two weeks of the Israeli invasion more than half the stocks were consumed, for the drain on resources was much higher than anyone could envisage. "We could manage during the first blockade which lasted for ten days, but during the four-and-a-half-week blockade we ran out of everything."

Even the Red Cross shipment which only just managed to reach us, did not help much for it was too small. We had patients who went on for 36 hours without any medications, and two patients died because of severe kidney injuries," she said.

Sometimes they could not get food distributed to the patients because of the continuous shelling. "We had to wait for volunteers who would go up to the kitchens and get same food. Even then we had to ration it for there was usually not enough," she explained.

Living with the constant possibility of getting injured, handicapped or killed, and coping daily with the tragedies all around her, did Dr. Shamma ever feel like giving up, and moving to a safer place?

"I did not have time to fear, for I had such a lot of work to accomplish," she answered. "It was such a time that people needed me. Being a physician it was my duty and responsibility to heal patients and try to save casualties as much as possible. At such a time, I learned how valuable human life is. 'Every person is irreplaceable,' an old man, an adult, a child, and a tonne."

One shortcoming of the triage system, Dr. Shamma pointed out, was that it took physicians some time to realise that patients who were lying quietly with no blood as evidence of major injury could die in 15 minutes. "We actually thought at first that the priority cases were those who were screaming in pain and the bloodiest, and hence we disregarded the calm patients," she explained.

Later, the physicians discovered that the quiet patients had small pieces of shrapnel lodged in their chests, causing major internal bleeding inside or a major haemorrhage.

Another difficulty of triage could be the immediate identification of dead casualties, especially in an atmosphere of crisis and fear. "Once we had a live man taken to the morgue -- he was in a terrible mess. A couple of hours later he was found breathing. Then we managed to operate on him successfully."

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TV & RADIO

JORDAN TELEVISION

MAIN CHANNEL

16:30 Koran

16:30 Cartoons

17:30 Children's Programme

17:30 Black Horse

17:45 The Incredible Local Programme

18:30 Programmes Review

20:00 News in Arabic

21:00 Arabic Series

22:00 Arabic Series

23:10 News in Arabic

FOREIGN CHANNEL

18:00 French Programme

19:30 News in French

19:30 News in Hebrew

20:30 News in Arabic

21:15 Best Seller: Shopaholic

22:00 News in English

MUSIC

18:00 Morning Show

SPORTS

United accepts the inevitable

LONDON (R) — Like an over-weight jogger suddenly confronted by a steep hill, Manchester United accepted the inevitable Saturday and left Liverpool to go on alone towards the English first division soccer championship.

United, who started the day 15 points in arrears, briefly threatened to close the gap when Dutch international Arnold Muhren shot them ahead in the 35th minute but Liverpool snatched ahead again when the evergreen Kenny Dalglish scored a breathtaking equaliser four minutes later.

With 14 games remaining, Liverpool have all but lapped United and Watford, whose 2-1 home win over European Cup holders Aston Villa took them into second place but still 14 points in arrears.

Liverpool and United, who will meet in the League Cup final at Wembley on March 26, attracted a crowd of 57,937—the biggest in the first division this season.

Thousands more were locked out and had to make do with a blow-by-blow account, courtesy of the cheers of the rival supporters.

There were few periods of silence, for United and Liverpool produced 90 minutes of non-stop excitement.

Veteran Scot Lou Macari, who

came on as substitute for the injured Kevin Moran in the 28th minute, set up the United goal with a superb 35-metre pass to Remi Moses.

The little midfielder promptly set Frank Stapleton free and although Liverpool goalkeeper Bruce Grobbelaar parried the Irish striker's shot, Muhren was on hand to clip the rebound home.

Liverpool, chasing the championship for the sixth time in eight years, simply stepped up the pace in the face of such impertinence.

African-born Craig Johnson and fullback Alan Metheringham combined on the left and the latter's cross was met by Dalglish who grabbed his 17th goal of the season with a sweet shot past Gary Bailey.

Watford, hammered 4-1 by Villa in the Football Association (F.A.) Cup last week, took their revenge thanks to an 89th minute winner from Will Rostrom.

Earlier, Luther Blissett, christened "miss-it" after his poor showing for England against Wales in midweek, had shot Watford ahead before Mark Walters equalised for Villa.

Nottingham Forest, the 1979 and 1980 European Cup winners, remained fourth despite being

N. Zealand inflicts 3rd one-day defeat on England cricketers

CHRISTCHURCH, New Zealand (R) — England captain Bob Willis Saturday signed off his team's Australasian cricket tour with a fitting epitaph—"We should have won."

Willis was speaking after England's 84-run defeat in the third and final one-day match against New Zealand which gave the home side a clean sweep of the limited-over series.

As they packed for the flight home, the England players must have reflected bitterly on a four-month tour which saw them surrender the Ashes to Australia, finish last in a three-horse race for the World Series Cup and now go down 3-0 in the one-day series against New Zealand.

To prevent a further disaster, they may hope a sandstorm obliterates the charity game they are due to play in Dubai on the way home.

England's defeat Saturday was fairly typical of earlier disasters. Having restricted New Zealand to 211 for eight from 50 overs, they reached 94 for two in reply before being all out for 127.

Particularly in the one-day games in the latter half of the tour, England have made a fine art of snatching defeat from the jaws of

victory.

Once again Glenn Turner was New Zealand's top scorer, making 34 in an opening stand of 64 with Bruce Edgar who contributed 32.

New Zealand lost their eighth wicket in the 42nd over at 156 before John Morrison and Martin Sneddon, the Man of the Match, added 55 in an unbroken ninth-wicket stand.

England's openers Chris Tavaré and Ian Gould went for only eight but then David Gower, the side's one consistently successful player during the tour, and Allan Lamb took the score to 94 for two in the 26th over.

But when they were out, Gower for 53 and Lamb for 37, the rest of the batsmen performed so miserably that none could surpass the tally of eight extras.

Willis has become adept at stoically reflecting on defeat. "We should have won. But we didn't bat with any great skill so I'm afraid we lost," he said. "Sometimes we're up and sometimes we're down."

In fact England were "up" on only one occasion when they beat Australia by three runs in the fourth test in Melbourne to trail 2-1 in the series. The fifth test in Sydney

was drawn.

A number of factors contributed to England's poor showings.

The original selection, which always looked somewhat ill conceived, proved to be just that. The wisdom of taking three off spinners was quickly laid bare and the decision to leave behind Trevor Jesty and Mike Gatting, after they had performed mightily during the English season, was misguided.

Jesty was eventually summoned when Graeme Fowler was injured and quickly established himself ahead of Derek Pringle, the Essex all-rounder who many felt should never have been chosen in the first place.

Willis's captaincy was also a disappointment. He was the first fast bowler to lead England for more than 30 years and the twin responsibilities proved an uneasy burden.

The cares of captaincy diminished his bowling and the concentration of bowling distracted him from handling the team as well as he might have done.

But to his credit Willis retained his dignity throughout the disappointing tour.

Noah defeats Van't Hof

LA QUINTA, California (R)

— Second-seeded Yannick Noah of France beat Robert Van't Hof of the United States 6-2, 3-6, 7-5 Friday to reach semi-finals of a \$25,000 tennis tournament here.

Noah, the tournament's defending champion, faced Van't Hof 14 times in the match. He broke his opponent's serve in the final game of the deciding set to record the victory. Van't Hof double-faulted on the match's final point.

In the semi-finals, Noah, 22, will face fourth-seeded Elliot Tel-

tcher who beat Victor Amaya 6-1, 6-1.

Unseeded Mike Bauer continued his string of upsets by defeating 16th-seeded Brad Gilbert 7-6, 6-3. Bauer, 23, who ousted top-seeded Jimmy Connors in the second round, will face third-seeded Jose Higueras of Spain in the semi-finals. Higueras swept past sixth-seeded Sandy Mayer 6-0, 6-4.

The winner of Sunday's final will earn \$32,000 and the runner-up \$16,000.

Second seed Vilas reaches semi-finals of WCT tourney

DELRAY BEACH, Florida (R)

— Second-seeded Guillermo Vilas of Argentina, the last remaining seed, reached the semi-finals of a \$300,000 tennis tournament Friday night with an easy 6-0, 6-1 victory over Cassio Motta of Brazil.

He will meet Tomas Smid of Czechoslovakia, who beat seventh-seeded Johan Kriek 6-2, 6-3 earlier.

The other semifinal will be between veteran Eddie Dibbs and Pavel Slozil of Czechoslovakia. The winner of Sunday's final will receive \$100,000.

Vilas, 30, ranked third in the world and winner of seven tournaments last year, completely outclassed Motta in winning the first ten games. Motta's groundstrokes from the baseline could not match Vilas' heavy topspin and deep groundstrokes.

Vilas won 13 successive points from 0-15 in third game to 15-0 in the sixth game of the first set and Motta did not have a game point until the sixth game.

Smid, who is at his best on clay, played steadily in his match against Kriek who prefers a fast surface and was erratic.

From 2-2 in the opening set,

Smid, who beat top-seeded Ivan Lendl in the first round, won six successive games. He took the match by breaking Kriek's serve to 15 in the ninth game of the second set.

Alan Jones may come out of retirement to join Arrows

LONDON (R) — Jackie Oliver, chief of the Arrows Grand Prix motor racing team, Saturday confirmed reports that former world champion Alan Jones will come out of retirement to race for his team if financing can be arranged.

Oliver, who is seeking sponsorship for Arrows, told Reuters: "We need money to run the car in the manner to which Jones is accustomed."

The Arrows chief said he had a month or more to raise the funds because Jones, the 1980 world champion who retired from Formula One racing in 1981, was still on crutches after a horse-riding accident at his Australian home last month.

But Oliver added: "We don't want the season to get too old before he joins us."

Oliver said Jones hoped to be off crutches and back in the driver's seat by the Long Beach race in late March.

He added he thought Jones would not be in racing form before the French Grand Prix on April 17 but added: "Jones is a tough Aus-

sie and one cannot underestimate him."

In Melbourne Saturday Jones confirmed he had been in touch with Arrows but refused to comment further, saying "it's been my experience with Australia that anything I say will be misconstrued."

Jones, 36, told Reuters he expected to be off crutches by the end of the week, and walking freely by the end of March.

Oliver said of Jones's tentative plans to join Arrows: "It would be terrific for us. We are a medium-sized team. We didn't have a particularly good year last year."

"Jones would bring more attention and trade support," he added.

The Arrows chief declined to specify how much financing the team was seeking.

"The amounts of money needed in Formula 1 racing tend to frightened people," he said.

The 1980 world champion has frequently been the subject of press speculation about a possible comeback. Both Jones and Oliver were members of the now-defunct shadow team when Jones won his first Grand Prix in 1977.

Gerulaitis, Gunthardt in Kuwait final

KUWAIT (R) — Top seed Vitas Gerulaitis of the U.S. and Heinz Gunthardt of Switzerland qualified for the singles finals of an Association of Tennis Professionals tournament here Friday night.

Gerulaitis fought hard to beat 19-year-old Magnus Tideman of Sweden 6-1, 4-6, 7-5 and Gunthardt defeated unseeded Czechoslovak Stanislav Birner 6-7, 6-3, 6-0.

The \$75,000 tournament ends Saturday.

TOKYO (R) — Marathon running has thrown up some interesting champions over the years but none more intriguing than Japan's Toshihiko Seko who made a brilliant comeback last week to win the Tokyo marathon in the world's fourth best time of two hours eight minutes and 38 seconds.

Japan has a proud tradition of marathon running although a Japanese native has yet to win an Olympic title. Keiichi Soni won the event at the 1936 Berlin Olympics running for Japan but he was a

runner.

His time becomes even more remarkable when it is taken into account that from October 1981 to May last year he was not even able to run because of severe leg pains.

"But Seko kept walking every day, even under rain when he was unable to run to keep fit," a fellow employee said admiringly.

Seko's awesome dedication and monastic lifestyle—he has been quoted as saying "running is my

3 world records set at U.S. indoor athletics meet

NEW YORK (R) — Three world indoor records were set Friday night at the U.S. indoor track and field championships at the Madison Square Garden track.

Stephanie Hightower set a new mark in the 60-yard women's hurdles of 7.36 seconds, leading from the gun and winning by about three yards going away.

She and Candy Young jointly held the old record of 7.37, set last year.

Ray Sharp set a world record in the two-mile walk of 12 minutes 13.33 seconds. The old record of 12:20.06 was held by Jim Herring, second Friday night at 12:15.36.

And a new mark was set in the 1,180-yard medley relay, an event run primarily in the United States, which consists of four legs of 440, 220, 220 and 300 yards.

The relay was won by the Tiger International team of Houston, Texas, in 2:00.25. The previous record was 2:01.1.

He was forced to share the meet's best leap with Dan Ripley.

Ripley put 18-8 and 5 inches (5.71 meters). Olson won as he made the vault in fewer attempts.

Carl Lewis, who holds the world indoor records in the men's long jump and the 60-yard dash, was the star of the competition, winning both events.

He won the 60-yard dash in 6.04 seconds compared with his world record is 6.02 and took the long jump with a leap of 27 feet and 5 inches (8.35 meters).

Darlene Beckford won the women's mile in 4 minutes 33.29 seconds. Cindy Bremer was second and Monica Joyce of Ireland was third.

The world record is held by Mary Decker Tabb at 4:20.5. She did not compete Friday night because of a stress fracture she suffered a few weeks ago.

Vilas' future in Argentina's Davis Cup team in doubt

DELRAY BEACH, Florida (R)

— Guillermo Vilas's future in Argentina's Davis Cup tennis team remains doubtful and clouded in controversy as time runs out before next week's clash with the United States.

Vilas has said he will not represent his country in the championship division first round starting in Buenos Aires next Friday unless he is officially notified by the Argentine Tennis Federation that he is in the team.

Vilas, asked at the Grand Prix Masters early last month about his relationship with Clerc, said: "We have no differences because we having nothing in common."

Clerc, asked a similar question this week, replied: "I don't know anything about Vilas. And I don't care."

Clerc did not play for Argentina in their Davis Cup first round defeat by France last year.

Vilas said of his confused status Saturday: "It is not very fair at this stage of my career. It is very unsatisfactory for my person. If you see one reason tell me."

Meanwhile, the open rift between Vilas and Clerc apparently continues.

Vilas, asked at the Grand Prix Masters early last month about his relationship with Clerc, said: "We have no differences because we having nothing in common."

The Turnbull-Smith contest saw no fewer than seven service breaks in the first set and four in the second, with Turnbull outgunning her taller opponent with little trouble. She held her service without losing a point in the final game.

Turnbull scored breaks in the final games of both sets, breaking for 6-4 in the first set after 42 minutes and for 6-2 in the second after 22 minutes.

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ECONOMY

Major U.S. banks cut interest rates

WASHINGTON (R) — Several major U.S. banks cut their interest rates Friday amid continuing enthusiasm on Wall Street that the longest recession since World War II is over.

The government also reported fresh success in the fight against inflation. The Labour Department said consumer prices edged up by two-tenths of a per cent last month.

The modest rise was hailed by the White House as proof that runaway price increases "are safely behind us," in the words of Treasury Secretary Donald Regan's senior economic adviser, Mr. Martin Feldstein.

At a White House briefing for reporters, Mr. Feldstein praised several leading banks for lowering their prime lending rates, charged their best corporate customers, to 10½ per cent. Two major banks, Citibank and Chemical Bank, were among those lowering the rate from 11 per cent.

The spate of good economic news combined with the recent fall in oil prices to send prices on the New York stock exchange to another record high Friday.

Wall Street analysts attributed the strong performance to confidence in the health of the economy and sentiment that declining oil prices will speed recovery from recession.

The cut in bank prime rates, which usually foreshadows lower consumer loan rates, came after Mr. Reagan this week said banks would stand to bring interest rates down "a notch or two."

Treasury Secretary Donald Regan also asserted this week that banks were deliberately propping up their rates to protect their earnings at a time when many borrowers are having trouble repaying their loans.

Administration officials said they are still concerned that high interest rates could slow the pace of any recovery.

But they were cheered by the modest advance of the consumer price index last month. Labour Department economists said that if rates continued at the same pace for the next 12 months, this year's inflation rate would be only 2.1 per cent compared with 3.9 per cent last year.

Romania, banks agree to reschedule \$600m debt

BUCHAREST (R) — Romania has reached agreement with Western banks on rescheduling \$600 million of debt falling due this year. It currently sees no need to reschedule 1984 debt, finance ministry sector Mr. Stelian Marin said Friday.

Mr. Marin told Reuters in an interview: "a rescheduling in 1984 would not be justified."

"1983 is the last year of difficulties. If we can get through it... the Romanian economy can develop without any balance of payments difficulties," he said.

He said the nine banks coordinating talks on the rescheduling, which deals with principal only, have promised to sign an agreement May 15 calling for 30 per cent of the money to be paid this year, 10 per cent in 1984 and the remaining 60 per cent in 6½ years with three years' grace.

Romania, which with Poland has been the main casualty of a cut in loans by Western banks to the Eastern bloc, would not need to reschedule its 1984 debt because of a fall in projected principal and interest payments from next year, Mr. Marin added.

Finance ministry figures show a fall in payments from \$3.43 billion a year to \$1.77 billion in 1984.

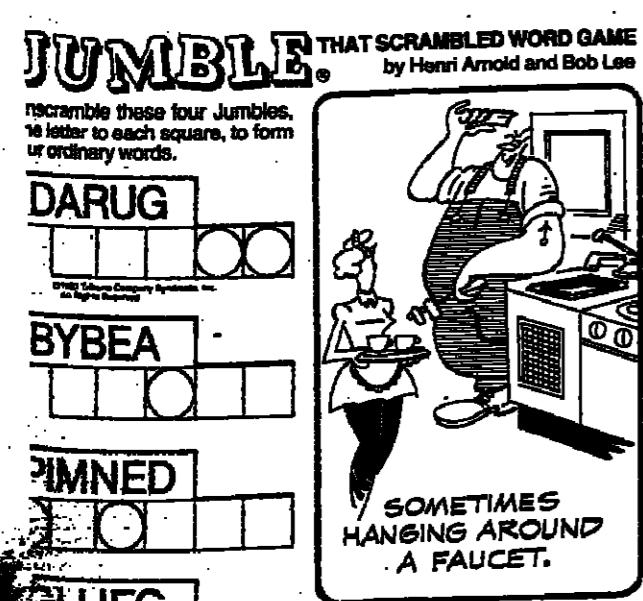
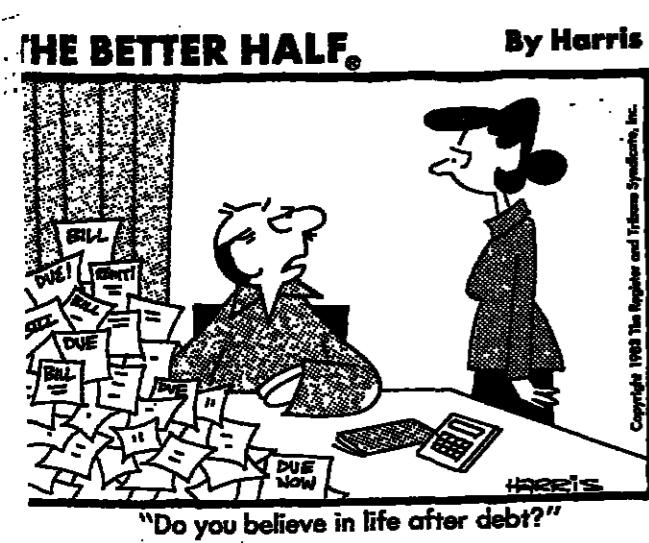
Mr. Marin added that Romania is seeking to reschedule \$150 million of debt owed to Western governments in 1983.

He said he expected that in late March or April Romania will meet Western governments in the so-called Paris Club of Western governments that discuss payments problems of creditors.

Romania, which has pledged to maintain 1983 interest payments, had an agreement in London last December to stretch out payments on \$2.3 billion of 1981 and 1982 debt owed to banks.

Romania owes Western creditors, including governments and international corporations such as the International Monetary Fund and World Bank, just over \$10 billion and is due to repay some \$1.

Western diplomats attribute Romania's payment problems to poor management coupled with a reliance on short term debt and loans which were withdrawn by banks anxious to reduce their Eastern European exposure in the wake of the Polish crisis.



Jumbles: ROBOT MOUND AIRWAY TAWDRY
Answer: Today's greatest labor-saving device — "TOMORROW"

Brazil, banks sign \$8b credit accords

NEW YORK (R) — Credit agreements for over \$8 billion were signed here Friday as an international plan to save Brazil from debt disaster set a financial "milestone". Brazil's Finance Minister Ernesto Galveas said.

International bankers stood in line at New York's elegant Plaza Hotel to sign thick documents giving Brazil the \$4.4 billion loan and the \$4 billion debt refinancing agreement that are key elements in its rescue programme.

On Monday, approval of a \$5.5 billion loan from the International Monetary Fund (IMF) is expected to cap the plan.

Mr. Galveas, signing with Central Bank Governor Carlos Langoni, told bankers at the ceremony the agreements were "a milestone in the financial history of the world."

Private banks, central banks and governments had banded together to rebuild confidence in financial markets, he said.

Brazil requested the loan and the refinancing two months ago after suffering a severe drain on its international reserves caused by a loss of confidence in money markets after Mexico suffered a liquidity crisis last August.

Brazil, which owes about \$81 billion abroad, has also obtained a \$1.2 billion bridging credit from central banks plus \$1.5 billion in U.S. government emergency credit.

Mr. Langoni told Reuters that Brazil has sought and expects to receive an additional \$400 million of short-term credit from the U.S. government to tide it over for about two weeks until it receives new money under the loan signed Friday. But in Washington, a U.S. treasury spokesman denied the department has any plans to lend additional money to Brazil.

Some 160 of Brazil's major creditor banks were due to sign the new eight-year loan, with interest rates of 2½ percentage points over the key London Interbank Offered Rates or 1½ point above U.S. banks' prime rate.

Representatives of 675 banks were due to sign the agreement extending debt falling due in 1983 on the same terms.

The third part of Brazil's four-part financing programme, covering renewal of some \$9 billion of short-term trade credit lines, is already complete, bankers noted.

The fourth part, the restoration of money market credit lines to foreign branches of Brazilian banks, is incomplete, but banking sources said progress was still being made on it.

Friday's signing follows Thursday's news that a \$5 billion six-year bank loan for Mexico is complete. Mexico, with \$83 billion of foreign debt, already has an IMF loan.

Argentina clarifies total external debt

BUENOS AIRES (R) — Argentina's economy ministry said Friday night the country's external debt was \$38.736 billion on Dec. 31, 1982, of which 49 per cent fell due for repayment this year.

The figures were contained in a statement issued by the ministry to clarify conflicting official estimates issued over the past two months.

According to the statement, total foreign debt was calculated at \$22.005 billion for the public sector, \$13.971 billion for the private sector and arrears of \$2.760 billion.

Of the total, \$18.917 billion was due to be repaid in 1983, \$3.966 billion in 1984 and \$3.184 billion in 1985; it added.

These calculations do not take into account Argentina's current efforts to renegotiate \$5.5 billion of public sector debt falling due this year, together with some \$7 billion of short term private debt.

Argentina's foreign debt was officially estimated at \$36.6 billion on June 30 last year, but Economy Minister Jorge Webbe created confusion in December when he revised the estimate to \$43 billion.

Last week Mr. Webbe said he had made a mistake, counting twice some \$5.5 billion of private sector loans with exchange insurance.

He gave a new rough estimate of \$37 billion, in line with a figure given to bankers in New York recently by Central Bank President Julio Gonzalez Del Solar.

The latest official debt figure of \$38.7 billion or \$36 billion excluding arrears is different again.

According to Thursday night's statement, the \$18.9 billion in debt falling due in 1983 is split evenly between the public and private sectors.

In order to help Argentina overcome its foreign debt crisis, the International Monetary Fund (IMF) gave the country \$2.2 billion of credit last month, including a stand by loan.

Argentina's private creditor banks gave the country a \$1.1 billion standby loan on Dec. 31 and are presently negotiating a further medium term credit of \$1.5 billion.

The Bank for International Settlements, a club of the world's main central banks, has also given Argentina a \$500 million short term loan to help it overcome its debt crisis.

Peanuts



Mutt 'n' Jeff



Andy Capp



NEWS IN BRIEF

Bonn opposes union demands

BONN (R) — The West German government said Friday it opposed union demands to be consulted in the early stages of any restructuring of the country's ailing steel industry. An economics ministry spokesman said Bonn wanted West German steel companies to take the crucial first steps towards streamlining the industry themselves, without interference from the powerful metalworkers union. He was responding to metalworkers leader Mr. Eugen Loderer, who Thursday demanded a say in any changes and called for the creation of a broad-based committee to reshape the steel sector.

Turkey seeks \$200m loan

ANKARA (R) — Turkey is seeking a medium-term syndicated loan of around \$200 million to help smooth balance of payments financing and the servicing of foreign debts, government sources said Friday. They said negotiations with banks including Morgan Guaranty were still at an early stage but that the attitude of U.S. banks was encouraging. Banks in Europe and the Gulf had also been approached.

Spain's unemployed totals 2.23m

MADRID (R) — A total of 2.23 million Spaniards were out of work at the end of 1982, an unemployment rate of 17.06 per cent, according to latest quarterly figures of the national statistics institute. The institute's data are higher than the figures issued by the labour ministry which include only registered unemployed. The ministry put the number of unemployed in December at 2.15 million or 16.53 per cent of the workforce.

Arab business group gets award

NEW YORK (AAACI) — The American-Arab Association for Commerce & Industry, Inc. (AAACI) earlier this month received the U.S. president's "E Star" award from U.S. Commerce Secretary Malcolm Baldrige. The award was made at a luncheon in New York at which Secretary Baldrige talked about his recent trip to Algeria and Saudi Arabia. The award was received by the association's Executive Director, I.F. Yusif, on behalf of the members of this business cooperative. The affair was attended by upward of 200 Arab ambassadors and diplomats, government officials, and U.S. and Arab businessmen. The American-Arab Association is a 32-year old private group dedicated to the promotion of U.S.-Arab business. It is the second time that the association received this award for excellence.

Itokin to buy 50% of French firm

TOKYO (R) — A Japanese women's clothes maker is to buy a 50 per cent share of the leading French fashion house Andre Courreges. A spokesman for the Japanese firm Itokin said Friday it was making the purchase by buying the French pharmaceutical firm O'Real which owns half of Andre Courreges. The Courreges family owns the other half. The spokesman, who declined to say how much the deal was worth, said Itokin hoped to improve sales of Andre Courreges products, which are made under licence in Japan by more than 20 companies. The French fashion house has annual sales of around \$1.3 million.

U.S. blocks Boeing-Libyan deal

NEW YORK (Special) — Boeing Co. said that the Commerce Department blocked a proposed \$600 million sale of 12 commercial jets to Libyan Arab Airlines. The Seattle-based corporation, in a statement issued by its office here, said the department refused to approve the required licence. The department wouldn't comment on the matter.

IMF to lend \$549 m to Philippines

WASHINGTON (R) — The International Monetary Fund (IMF) announced Friday it would lend up to \$549 million to the Philippines to help the country weather the current global recession.

FORECAST FOR SUNDAY, FEB. 27, 1983

YOUR DAILY Horoscope

from the Carroll Righter Institute

GENERAL TENDENCIES: An especially good day and evening to extend your knowledge beyond present boundaries. You may be eager to make changes now but this is not the right time.

ARIES (Mar. 21 to Apr. 19) Contacting progressive and clever individuals can result in your own advancement at this time. Strive for happiness.

TAURUS (Apr. 20 to May 20) Follow your intuitive hunches now since they can be helpful in your dealings with others. Flash that winning smile more.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 21) Contacting influential persons today can be the best means through which you can advance in career matters.

MOON CHILDREN (June 22 to July 21) Your intuitive perception is keen now, so put it to good use and gain your objectives. Plan the coming week's activity.

LEO (July 22 to Aug. 21) Study contracts you have made and if any revisions are necessary, get at them early. An expert can give excellent advice.

VIRGO (Aug. 22 to Sept. 22) Study new ways to cut down on expenses. Listen carefully to what a family member has to say and follow the advice.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22) Engage in recreational activities with congenials. Carry through with ideas of a creative nature in your spare time.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21) Study your surroundings and make improvements where needed. Make plans to have more abundance in the days ahead.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21) A good day to visit places where you can gain a better appreciation of life. Think kindly of others.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 20) Plan how to make your possessions more valuable. Ideal day for meditating and searching for the truth.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 to Feb. 19) Visit good friends and show that you value the relationship. A day when you can easily make a good impression on others.

PISCES (Feb. 20 to Mar. 20) Engage in confidential work that could make the future look brighter for you. Express happiness with close ties.

IF YOUR CHILD IS BORN TODAY . . . he or she will be interested in the latest trends and inventions. Be sure to give the right spiritual and ethical training to keep this mind working along constructive channels. Give the finest education you can afford.

"The Stars impel, they do not compel." What you make of your life is largely up to you!

THE Daily Crossword

by Frank R. Jackson

ACROSS	24 Rake	51 Scrape off	24 Tatters
1 Endure	26 Haig's domain, once	52 Tavern	25 European airport
5 Pocket	33 Was concerned	53 D	26 Wound marks
change	34 Eye coquettishly	59 Sharpen	27 Impaled
in Paris	35 The present	60 Mallet	28 Milieu for contestants
10 Map	36 High cards	61 Egginess	29 Sharpened end
14 "against	37 Bolsterous	62 Forelocks	30 Acute boredom
— of	38 Poker stake	64 Arthur of tennis	31 Untrue
troubles"	40 Place for grain	65 Poet's preposition	32 Poet's
15 Mississippi	41 College VIP	37 Gas	33 Louts
eight	42 Timid one for one	38 Excellent	34 Excellent
16 Ivy League	43 Important address	3 Chair	41 Thick, as a fog
school	47 Roadside hostilities	4 Make lace	42 Clio and Erato

WORLD

Tennessee Williams dies at 71

NEW YORK (R) — Tennessee Williams, the playwright whose sultry dramas reflected the vulnerability and pathos of his own troubled life, died in his New York apartment Friday. He was 71.

Williams was acclaimed as one of the 20th century's major dramatists for his powerful plays including "A Streetcar Named Desire," "The Glass Menagerie" and "Cat on a Hot Tin Roof."

He was found dead beside the bed in his suite in a hotel on Manhattan's East Side, apparently of natural causes. The New York medical examiner said there was no sign of foul play and the cause of death would be announced after an autopsy.

Police said an empty wine bottle and two pills were found near the

body. They did not say what type of pills they were.

Williams was in poor health most of his life, suffered from alcoholism and had a series of nervous breakdowns from the age of 23.

But he was remembered by friends as a sweet, kindly man who detested human cruelty and saw fame and success as threats to an artist's creativity.

Williams was born in 1911 in Columbus, Mississippi, and his most famous plays bore the unmistakable aura of the deep South.

His real name was Thomas Lanier Williams, but perhaps echoing his father's criticism of him as a delicate "Miss Nancy," he said the name was too nice. Instead he took the name Tennessee from his

father's forebears who were Indian fighters and pioneers in the state of Tennessee.

Williams used his preoccupation with death to create stories of violence and lust, like the Pulitzer prize-winning "A Streetcar Named Desire" in which the disintegrating southern belle, Blanche Dubois, is confronted by her forceful, earthy brother-in-law, Stanley Kowalski.

Like the fragile Blanche, who said, "I always depend on the kindness of strangers," Williams seemed too vulnerable for the vagaries of life and suffered a complete breakdown in 1969, after which he converted to Roman Catholicism.

He became a celebrity with his second play, "Glass Menagerie"

in 1944, but then returned to New Orleans, which he always considered his home, and found the inspiration for "Streetcar."

Williams once said the premise underlying all his work was "the need for understanding and tenderness and fortitude among individuals trapped by circumstance."

Marlon Brando, who played Stanley to Vivien Leigh's Blanche in the film version of "Streetcar," said: "His was a wounded life."

Playwright Arthur Miller said: "He came into the theatre bringing his poetry, his hardened edge of romantic adoration of the lost and the beautiful. For a while the theatre loved him and then it went back to searching in its pockets for its soul."

Senegalese voters have wide choice in elections

DAKAR (R) — Senegalese voters will choose from an array of parties and candidates which is rare in black Africa at elections Sunday but President Abdou Diouf and the ruling Socialist Party (PS) seem most likely to be returned to power.

A complex new electoral code based on the West German and other Western models is designed to assure some representation for the many smaller parties but basically ensures that the Socialists retain power, political sources said.

The eight parties and five presidential candidates offer a variety unusual in black African politics.

The 1,300 candidates are competing for 120 parliamentary

seats, 20 more than in the last elections in 1978 when the Socialists won 82 seats and the Senegalese Democratic Party (PDS) of lawyer Abdoulaye Wade won 18. Ten PDS deputies have since defected to the Socialists.

The campaign has lacked strong themes. The opposition has accused the Socialists of a poor performance. The Socialists have promised stability and efforts to boost the country's economy, hit in recent years by recession and bad weather.

The government has started a five-year recovery plan with World Bank help and is trying to develop tourism, phosphates and iron ore to diversify the country's narrow economic base.

Bomb, arson attacks continue in Assam

NEW DELHI (R) — A girl was killed in a bomb attack Saturday as violence continued in India's northeastern state of Assam where at least 1,500 people have died in three weeks of riots and communal clashes.

The girl died and five people were injured when a bomb was thrown into an office in the Central Darrang district, the Press Trust of India (PTI) news agency reported.

Troops were reported to have stepped up patrols and to be assisting the civil authorities in several places, including the area around Nellie where tribesmen last weekend hacked to death about 1,000 immigrants.

The agency said there were further clashes and arson attacks Saturday in the Central Brahmaputra River Valley.

Prime Minister Indira Gandhi's Congress (I) Party won a two-thirds majority in state elections in Assam earlier this month and its newly-elected leader there is expected to be sworn in as chief minister this weekend, ending a year of direct central government rule.

But there is already speculation that Mrs. Gandhi might have to re-impose direct rule from New Delhi to bring the situation under control.

Asked at a press conference here Friday about the possibility of re-imposing president's rule, Mrs. Gandhi said: "We will have to watch and see what happens."

The agency said there were further

Hanoi asks everybody to have faith

HANOI (R) — Diplomats and journalists who question Vietnamese officials for details of troop withdrawals from Kampuchea are told to have faith in Hanoi's announcements.

"When we say something we do it," Foreign Minister Nguyen Co Thach told foreign journalists here after an announcement that Vietnam would withdraw some of its estimated 180,000 troops from Kampuchea every year if security conditions allowed.

The announcement, following a summit of Vietnamese, Laotian and Kampuchean leaders in Vientiane this week, came after Vietnam had told diplomats here that the meeting was designed solely to discuss cooperation between the three Indochinese countries.

"If they suddenly decide to announce a regular withdrawal from Kampuchea the offer must have significance," said one Western diplomat.

But Vietnam's non-Communist neighbours and China are openly sceptical and accuse Hanoi of merely rotating its troops in Kampuchea, where Vietnamese-led forces toppled the pro-Peking Khmer Rouge government in January 1979.

A first withdrawal of an undisclosed number of Vietnamese troops from Kampuchea was announced by Mr. Thach last July after a meeting of Indochinese foreign ministers in Ho Chi Minh City.

At the time, Mr. Thach cited military security as the reason for not providing details of the pullout and gave similar grounds this week for not disclosing the extent of the latest withdrawal announcement.

Reports circulating among Western diplomats say about 10,000 to 12,000 Vietnamese troops left Kampuchea last year and were replaced by an unknown number of fresh soldiers.

The withdrawal announcement last year was patently bogus", an Asian envoy in Hanoi said.

Thailand's foreign minister, Air Chief Marshal Siddhi Savetsila, whose country faces the Vietnamese army on the border with Kampuchea, said last week he believed Vietnam "wants to make some noise because of the coming Non-Aligned meeting in New Delhi."

Hanoi's forces have been concentrated near the Thai border region where the estimated 40,000 to 60,000 anti-Vietnamese insurgents are based, while Kampuchean army units have taken over security further inland.

Saunders says U.S., Israel need in-depth dialogue on Mideast

WASHINGTON (Agencies) — Harold Saunders, the assistant secretary of state for Near Eastern and South Asian affairs, from 1978 to 1981, as well as a resident fellow at the American Enterprise Institute, has recommended that the United States should open a "prolonged and serious dialogue" with Israel on the fundamental issues involved in finding a Middle East peace.

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NEWS IN BRIEF

Headless corpse identified in U.S.

POMONA (New York (R)) — medical examiner identified the remains of a body brought to the United States from El Salvador Sunday as that of missing freelance journalist John Sullivan Dr. Frederick Zugibe, medical examiner for Rockland County told a news conference that the "age, sex, race and height" of the remains are all consistent with that of John Sullivan. The corpse -- headless and without hands -- was discovered last July just outside San Salvador. As part of the family's long fight to discover the fate of their missing son New Jersey Congresswoman Marge Roukema won approval in the House of Representatives to an amendment making aid to El Salvador contingent partly upon investigation of his disappearance.

Australian Labour extends its lead

SYDNEY (R) — The opposition Labor Party has extended its lead over Prime Minister Malcolm Fraser's conservative coalition government in the run-up to Australia's general election next week. According to an opinion poll published Saturday, the poll, published in the country's only national newspaper, the Australian, gave Labor a 13-point lead. I said 52 per cent of those surveyed said they would vote Labor and 39 per cent intended to vote to the Liberal-National Party coalition.

Pretoria deters 289 squatters

CAPE TOWN (R) — A total of 289 blacks, including 47 children, were in jail Saturday after a raid on a squatter camp on the outskirts of Cape Town. Police and government officials raided the KTC squatter camp Friday, arresting hundreds of squatters for being in Cape Town illegally under South Africa's black influx control laws.

Hero advised to get head examined

LONDON (R) — A hospital worker honoured for putting out a fire has admitted that he liked being a hero so much that he started four other blazes to win more glory. Electrician John Jones, 37, would wait nearby for somebody to discover the fire and then rush in and put out the flames, a court was told. Jones, who admitted four charges of arson at the hospital where he worked, was freed by a judge on condition he underwent psychiatric treatment.

Dacca to release jailed politicians

DACCA (R) — Bangladeshi military ruler Lt.-Gen. Hossain Mohammad Ershad said he is planning to free all politicians jailed after last week's violence to set the stage for a national dialogue or the country's future. But he said he had not yet decided whether the politicians would be charged for violating martial law regulations banning political meetings, demonstrations and strikes.

Mistakenly-shot man leaves hospital

LONDON (R) — Freelance film editor Stephen Waldorf, shot by detectives who mistook him for a man wanted for trying to kill a policeman, has left a London hospital after six weeks of treatment, his family said. Mr. Waldorf, 26, was discharged from hospital Friday, but he would have to convalesce before looking for work, a family spokesman added.

North Korean pilot defects to South

SEOUL (Agencies) — A North Korean pilot flew his MiG-19 jet fighter into South Korea Feb. 25 and asked for political asylum, the defense ministry said. A ministry spokesman said the MiG was intercepted after it crossed the border between the two countries. South Korean officials said the jet fighter was the fifth North Korean plane to land in the South since the end of the Korean War in 1953.

GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOBEN

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Neither vulnerable. North deals.

NORTH

♦ Q J

♦ A Q J

♦ Q 6 4 3 2

♦ Q 8 6

WEST

♦ K 10 9 7

♦ 5 3

♦ K 9 8

♦ J 10 9 8

♦ 3

♦ A K J 7 5

SOUTH

♦ 8 6 4 2

♦ 5 4 3 2

♦ Void

♦ 9 7 5 4 2

The bidding:

North East

South West

1 NT

Pass

2 ♦

Pass

Dble

Pass

Opening lead: Jack of ♠.

We have never been unqualified admirers of the weak no trump opening bid. But there is no denying that it produces surprising results — and not always in the way you might think!

This hand is from a recent European tournament.

North's hand is the sort of 14 points that might not qualify for an opening bid. The doubleton spade honors are of doubtful value and the hand has only one ace and no king. South's decision to run from one no trump is a typical tactic of exponents of the weak no trump try to escape before getting doubled, but why he chose two spades is a swing!

beyond us. We would have started with two clubs (Stayman) and, should partner deny a major, we would bid two hearts to give partner a choice of suits. East made a balancing double and West was delighted at the prospects of defending two spades doubled.

Unfortunately, West's skill at selecting an opening lead did not measure up to the wisdom of his decision to defend the doubled contract. Had he started with the king of spades, he would have been able to draw declarer's trumps. Careful play in the minor suits would then have allowed the defenders to take all thirteen tricks, for a penalty of 1500 points.

A strange thing happened when West elected to lead the top of his diamond sequence. Declarer ruffed and took a heart finesse. That left him in dummy for another diamond ruff. There followed in quick order a heart to the queen, a diamond ruff, a heart to the ace and another diamond ruff. Declarer had scored the first seven tricks, and when he now led the thirteenth heart, there was no way he could be prevented from scoring the fulfilling trick with one of dummy's trump honors.

Mr. Neumann further assumes that the Palestinian issue is a problem of historical nationalism, a national consciousness that craves by nature a land in which it can legitimately reside.

He believes that the recent talks between King Hussein and PLO leader Yasser Arafat have gone well, even though there has been no public announcement about the exact nature of the association, federation, or confederation that a joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation might eventually take.

Mr. Neumann's third assumption is that the essence of United States policy is to hold two assumptions, as well as adv-

ocating the peace initiative announced by President Reagan on Sept. 1 last year. He sees the Reagan plan as being based upon the Post reported that those favouring not giving up one inch of territory was 42.2, and those that would give up parts of the West Bank was 39.8.

As a result of his trip, Mr. Neumann assumes moderate Arab countries and those elements of the Palestine Liberation Organisation who accept in one way or another, the Reagan formula of "territory for peace" would be willing to come forward to negotiate.

He singled out Jordan as being one of the those moderate Arab nations that would come to the negotiating table if Israel would change its policy regarding the implementation of the peace talks.

King Hussein told Mr. Neumann in Amman that he supported President Reagan's peace initiative, and spoke warmly about the conversations he and President Reagan had in December in Washington. He expressed no doubt in the sincerity and determination of the president to advance a Mideast peace process, Mr. Neumann said.

Centre of conflict

However, the conflict about the negotiations centres around whether or not an American president can convince a Jordanian monarch if he has the "deliverability" to influence the Israeli government of Menachem Begin.